

# Edmonds Sister City Commission

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**Meeting Date:** September 24, 2012 – Meeting Minutes

Pos. 1 Michelle Van Tassell	Pos. 2 OPEN	Pos. 3 Yoshikata Inoue
Pos. 4 Marlene Friend	Pos. 5 Kay Vreeland	Pos. 6 Rita Bailey Ikeda
Pos. 7 Iyoko Okano	Pos. 8 Kody McConnell	Pos. 9 Joseph Fletcher
Pos. 10 Beth Fuhriman	Pos. 11 Jill Van Berkom	Pos. 12 OPEN

**Commissioners not in Attendance:** McConnell, Ikeda, Friend

**Staff:** None

**Call to order:** 7:07pm

**Guest Presentation:** Edmonds artist, Mona Fairbanks, and My Edmonds News reporter, Janette Turner, described their idea centering on a lantern walk which is to occur during the month of August in downtown Edmonds. A handout was given to each Commissioner further describing the event. The handout is included in the attached pages.

Paul Anderson, who seeks a position as a Commissioner, introduced himself and attended the meeting.

**Minutes:** The August meeting minutes were sent out electronically and reviewed during an email discussion. A move was made to accept the minutes for the August meeting. This was seconded and passed by the body.

**Treasurer's report:** Kody submitted a treasurer's report noting a total balance of \$8,761.26. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as written. The motion was seconded and carried by the body.

**Correspondence:** Our group held a Skype conference which was attended by Yoshi, Carrie, and Iyoko. Okamoto-san, Nagasaki-san and Sakakibara-san attended the meeting on the Hekinan side. We expressed our concern about the following topics:

- age of the Hekinan student delegation
- Edmonds may not have student demand to send students to Hekinan every year
- Emphasis on the 25-year anniversary

Some discussion was offered on these topics with the result being that another Skype conference is required to come to some decision regarding the exchange program for next year. It was observed that the use of a live teleconference is preferred (in some cases) over the somewhat ambiguous communication that takes place during email.

**Old business:**

**Hekinan Delegation Reflection:** Rita presented an evaluation form where several questions were posed to the student volunteers. The 9 questions were sent to all students – responses were returned by 3 students. Transportation was perhaps the most noted issue. A copy of this report is attached to the minutes.

**Edmonds Delegation Report:** Jill was able to offer her remarks on the Edmonds student delegation trip as she was not able to attend the previous meeting. A notable experience was the preparation of the Pula, Croatia delegation in regard to gift giving. In addition, the Pula delegation was well-prepared for the sayonara party with a lengthy presentation including professionally prepared tourism brochures. Several members of the group remarked on our limitations and it was noted that there were several instances where the Edmonds chaperone could have been better informed on the requirements and/or expectations.

**Saturday Market Booth:** The booth will be in place this weekend. An additional volunteer is needed. Beth and Joseph are checking on their availability. The previous booth session found some community interest in the program and a previously held 'Cultural Night.'

**Adult Delegation:** Brainstorming session is to be held this Friday afternoon (9/28) at 3pm with the Mayor. The group will report the outcome of this session at the next meeting.

**Lantern Walk:** The Commission's response to the presentation was positive. With additional thought and planning, the event could be a great community activity. Kay will serve as the liaison to this group.

**Hazel Miller Foundation Update:** Michelle reported a positive response from the Hazel Miller foundation indicating a willingness to support the efforts to recognize the 25th-year anniversary of the Sister City relationship. Michelle will continue to communicate with the organization. It was also reported that Carl Zapora with the Verdant Health organization may be seeking grant applications. The targeted recipients will be in the health and healthcare area.

**Student Delegation 2013:** Beth shared a letter and the responses from a couple of students from the Edmonds delegation. Some of the content received will be published in the School District eNewsletter. The response document is attached to these minutes.

**Edmonds Floretum Garden Club:** Joseph will draft additional language in the response letter indicating that Floretum should contact Hekinan directly. It was also mentioned that there is a former Chaperone who may have experience with Japanese gardens that is valuable to Floretum.

**Olympic Ballet:** The request from the ballet school has not yet been discussed with our Hekinan counterparts. No mention was made of a plan to do so.

### **New Business:**

**City Council Student Representatives:** the Edmonds City Council has passed a City Ordinance to appoint a student representative to each Board and Commission. It may be necessary for our Commission to

modify our Commissioner application toward this program. Jill will lead this effort with support from Joseph and Beth.

**Hekinan Gift:** For the 25<sup>th</sup>-year anniversary, Michelle suggested a muralist, Andy Eccleshall, whose art might be a suitable gift. His work can be found at [www.muralworks.com](http://www.muralworks.com)

**Tabled:** <placeholder>

**Next Meeting:** October 22nd – 7:00pm

**Adjournment:** 9:02pm