

## **Sister City Meeting Minutes Tuesday July 5, 2016 7:00 pm**

**Attendance:** Lorrie Forde, Darlene Forsdick, Wendy Hodgson, Chico Inaba, Janet Peake, Leanne Sieben, Karen Hooper

### **1. Approval of minutes from January 4, 2016 meeting**

Motion to approve minutes from January meeting made by Karen Hooper, second by Lorrie Forde, approved.

### **2. Old business:**

Picture presented by Leanne Sieben for the commemorative board that will be placed at the entrance to Japanese garden in lower Summerland. Changes were made to the proposed wording on the sign. Wording will now be sent for translation to Japanese. Leanne Sieben is working with Brenda Ingram at the Summerland Recreation department to have the sign completed as soon as possible.

### **3. AET Update:**

Janet Jory has been hired as the assistant English teacher by the Board of Education in Toyokoro Japan. She has taken on a 2 year contract. Janet arrived in Japan on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 and starting teaching the next day. Allyssa Hooper's teaching contract ended on June 30, 2016. She will be returning to Canada on July 25, 2016.

### **4. Japan trip update:**

21 people including 2 council members will be participating in the Sister City trip in September 2016. 6 students will be attending including the 4 Summerland Royalty. All of the delegation are required to pay all costs and expenses for their trip. All plans for the trip are coming along nicely. There is some concern over the exchange rate of YEN as it has changed drastically since the beginning planning stages of the trip. There have been some flight time changes and that will be discussed at the delegation meeting at Lorrie Forde's house on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Darlene Forsdick is still waiting for some payments from the delegates and the final payments are due on July 8<sup>th</sup>. There was much discussion over formal and informal gifts that need to be purchased and many ideas were shared. Individuals will be looking after their own gifts.

### **5. Delegation visit from Toyokoro:**

There will be 9 students and 2 adults visiting Summerland from Toyokoro from August 3-8, 2016. All students require home stay accommodation. To date we have found 3 home stay accommodation. All committee members are asked to assist in finding home stay accommodation as time is running out to have home stays in place. The proposed itinerary for both the adults and students was presented by Leanne Sieben. There was much discussion over the costs associated with having the delegation in Summerland. There is a new process for the funding for the sister committee and no one was clear on how much funding

was available this year and how the funds are allowed to be spent. Leanne Sieben will be setting up a meeting at city hall to find out more information on funding for the visiting delegation and for the yearly expenses of running the sister city program.

Chico Inaba has offered to translate the formal speeches for both council members and the sister city committee. Please write your speech as soon as possible to ensure enough time for translation. Welcome speeches and farewell speeches are needed. A welcome reception will be held at city hall on Aug 3 for the students and adult visitors and the home stay families will then pick up their student at city hall. Karen Jones will be organizing the welcome reception.

**6. New Business:**

Karen Hooper brought up the possibility of providing funding for the Summerland Royalty to participate in the sister city trip to Toyokoro Japan in September 2016. The Royalty had requested funding through a letter to the Mayor and Council as this is the way funding had been received in the past. The Royalty were approved from the city for \$500.00 total in funding and at the council meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup> they were referred to the sister city committee for possible further funding. After much discussion, it was determined that the sister city committee is a council committee and it does not have the authority to approve funding for individuals. It was also determined that as far as any members were aware, sister city funds had never been used to fund the royalty in the past. It was also determined that the sister city committee and the royalty committee are completely different entities. Leanne Sieben and Karen Hooper will be having a meeting at city hall to determine exactly what the funding process is for the sister city committee each year as well as on a year when delegations travel between the countries.

Next meeting date will be scheduled following the meetings at city hall.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm**