

San José-Okayama Sister City Organization

Minutes: Member meeting 11-22-08

Meeting at the home of Gloria Stern

Attendees: Gloria Stern, Kazuko Green, Bob Green, Ralph Butterworth, Jeanette Butterworth, Warren Hayashi, Sandy Serpa, Marge Duke; regrets from John and Rebecca Gill, John Lozano

Items: Reviewed status of the organization and the proposal submitted to the City. Some members complained about the long name of the group.

Discussed banking decisions with Pacific Neighbors to be completed by the end of the year. Banking to be limited to existing savings account with access by Treasurer and President until IRS approval of non-profit strategy. Gloria to offer checking account. BGAI also has offered a funds holding account for membership or other group fees.

City letter: Reviewed the "approval letter" from Joe Hedges and described fees for incorporation and

By Laws: Reviewed the By Laws created for the incorporation
Ralph Butterworth wishes to make some changes. Agrees that changes should be made by the general membership meeting in March. He will propose changes early in the year.

Calendar: Changed the "business year" of the group to begin April 1. This is to allow new leadership to have time to design a good program proposal for the next City year which begins July 1. Decided that existing and new paid members will have membership until March 31, 2010.

Programs: Reviewed upcoming visit by 62 Japanese high school student symphonic band in March 2009. Homestays have been located by Santa Clara families. There will be a joint performance with Buchser Jr. High band at Santa Clara University venue
The Okayama band wishes to play for a San Jose school. We are waiting for Notre Dame, Linbrook, and Harker Academy feedback.

Briefly discussed the Nikkei Matsuri program for 2009.

Next Meeting Set next meeting for the first Monday in January. Gloria Stern to seek assistance from the City for meeting space. Bob Green to stage some Japanese culture or historical video presentation.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 5, 2009, 6:30 pm; location tba

Internet Bob discussed changes coming in the existing sj-okayama.org web site. It is to change from a private one to the group's official web page. Bob's company, BGAI has purchased the domain name for 9 years and has moved to a new internet hosting company with a prepaid 2 year contract. BGAI has donated these to the group.

End of minutes