



Federal Way Sister City Association

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2002 – 6:30 p.m.

Federal Way City Hall – Mt. Baker Conference Room – 2nd floor

In attendance: Mark Freitas (Vice President), Judy Coble (Treasurer), Sam Elder, Lisa Nicks, Toshiko Kawata, Management Services Director Iwen Wang, Management Analyst Jason Suzaka, and Administrative Assistant Natalie Rees

Guests: Councilmember Michael Park, Han Bom Lee, Jae Lee

1. Call to Order / Introductory Remarks

Vice President Freitas called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The summary from the August 21, 2002 meeting was approved as presented.

Mr. Freitas welcomed new Association member Lisa Nicks to her first meeting.

2. General Business

A. Election of Officers

Jeri Eubanks was nominated for President via written request from current President Brian Picard. There being no other names placed in nomination, Ms. Eubanks was chosen unanimously to assume leadership of the Association. Because of Ms. Eubanks' absence, staff will contact her to affirm acceptance of the position.

Sam Elder's name was placed in nomination for Vice-President, but he declined the nomination. Mark Freitas agreed to return as Vice President and was unanimously chosen by acclamation. Both Derek Matheson, the Association's Secretary, and Treasurer Judy Coble were unanimously selected to remain in their positions for the coming year.

C. Recap City Delegation to Asia (out of order)

Councilmember Park recounted the experiences of the City's delegation as it traveled to visit both sister cities of Hachinohe, Japan, and Donghae City, South Korea. The group departed on Monday, August 26, returned on September 4, and included Mayor Jeanne Burbidge, Councilmember Michael Park, executive assistant Patrick Briggs, and five Korean-Americans from the business community. He noted that the excursion was very successful, as they met with the new mayors of both cities, engaged in discussions on education, culture, and economics, and visited both Donghae University and Hachinohe University, along with other schools. Mr. Park was especially gratified to reestablish connections with the colleges as to their partnerships with Highline Community College.

Other notable events involved a successful dialogue with Donghae's Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Burbidge's address to an open forum discussing women's gender/equity issues while in Hachinohe, and a special reception held at the Port of Hachinohe.

While in Japan, tentative plans were discussed for next year's 10th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Federal Way and Hachinohe. They would like to send a large contingent to Federal Way for celebration of the event.

Donghae is also planning to send a delegation to visit our city next year, perhaps as a first-time visit in conjunction with Family Fest.

B. Donghae Disaster Relief Fund

Councilmember Park recounted the tragic aftermath of Typhoon Rusa that struck Donghae City, South Korea on August 31, just a few short hours after the city's delegation had departed for Hachinohe, Japan on its recent trip. He presented a memorandum written with Mayor Jeanne Burbidge requesting the Sister City Association's assistance in a project that would provide disaster relief funds to our Korean sister city.

Typhoon Rusa was the worst in 40 years, causing over \$200 million in damages, killing 8 people, with two people still missing. Approximately 4,045 houses were submerged, stranding more than 14,000 flood victims. The city's infrastructure took significant blows to public highways, bridges, and rail lines.

In an effort to lend assistance in stabilization of the community, it was suggested that a disaster relief fund be established, allowing Federal Way's citizens the opportunity to offer support to our sister city. The city's finance department recommended that a donation account be set up at the Association's financial institution, Washington State Bank, and that the group determine a time period for collection of donations. At the end of that period, the collected monies would be wired to the City of Donghae as Federal Way's contribution to relief efforts.

Members unanimously accepted the Association's sponsorship of this project, and noted that the spirit and goodwill of this effort is well worthy of the true meaning of the sister city concept. An account will be established next week as outlined above, with a collection deadline of November 15. Ms. Rees noted that staff will produce a press release, but that the bank account needs to be open and able to accept donations before the media learns of the project. Mr. Freitas and Ms. Coble, who will be returning from a trip to Japan on Tuesday, September 24, indicated they would be available to establish a donation bank account on Wednesday, September 25.

D. Final Baseball Accounting

Mr. Suzaka distributed the Hachinohe Baseball Exchange final expense/income statement. Ms. Coble verified a net project balance of \$2,443.38. Mr. Elder noted that approximately

\$40 will be added to the total due to the sale of items left over from the auction that were sold at an antique store.

E. Recap Family Fest

Ms. Rees discussed the Family Fest visit of four ladies from Hachinohe: Keiko Kamei, Kachie Sugawara, Yoko Sato, and Ritsuko Yanagisawa. The group performed on stage at the festival and entertained booth visitors with tea ceremonies and the demonstration of dollmaking and flower arranging skills.

While in Federal Way, the group toured famous Seattle-area landmarks, visited a retirement community, had dinner at Salty's, was invited to dinner at a private home, and enjoyed shopping at the mall. Great one-on-one friendships developed and the ladies expressed their appreciation of the opportunity to visit. Before returning to Japan on August 28, the group made a daytrip to Vancouver, B.C.

3. Reports/Updates

A. Staff Report

Ms. Rees noted that, while the city's delegation was in South Korea, they requested that promotional brochures and information about Donghae be sent to Federal Way. The group then reiterated a topic discussed last month about placing an item on the Association's agenda early next year to formally invite Donghae City to be part of the 2003 Federal Way Festival.

B. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Coble reported that the account's balance stands at \$5,309.08, with approximately \$2,500 of this balance as baseball residual.

4. Other Items

Mr. Freitas mentioned that he, his wife, and Judy Coble will be traveling to Japan beginning tomorrow, September 19, returning on September 24, as participants in the Hachinohe Chamber of Commerce Young Entrepreneurs Group 15th anniversary celebration. They hope to use this trip as an impetus to plan future Sister City activities and goals.

5. Adjourn

Mr. Freitas adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Next regular meeting: October 16, 2002