



DRAFT

January 17, 2023

MINUTES

Unless noted, all officially appointed Sister Cities representatives were in attendance.

Absent: Mary Hooker, Tim Schride.

Staff attending: Councilmember Kristina Martens, At-Large Representative; Brooksana Raney, Mayor's Executive Assistant

Current Sister Cities roster can be found on the City website:

[Sister Cities Advisory Board Roster - City of Bellingham, WA \(cob.org\)](https://cob.org/sister-cities)

Welcome

- President Grier welcomed members and guests.
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Roll Call and Introductions

Since the presence of representatives may be seen on the screen, via the Zoom platform, roll call was skipped.

Review of Agenda

Approval of October 2022 minutes

- No quorum
-

City Reports

Punta Arenas – Mary Hooker

- Chair Absent
- Per Steve, Tapio has written to him about the Peace Grant. He may be applying next year for a group to visit Punta Arenas in December 2023.



**City of Bellingham
Mayor's Sister Cities
Advisory Board**

Cheongju – No chair

- Ask Miwaha if Ski to Sea participants have been identified. Cheongju (Mrs. Kim) expressed interest when speaking to Ross in past.

Vaasa – Jeff Eastman

- Sent information to Suzanna (external relations staff) about Ski to Sea and the possibility of participants from Vaasa.
- Provided information on the Finish Film Festival, February 3-5, with an invitation extended to Mayor Fleetwood to view the student films and make a few remarks.

Tsetserleg – Bolor Smith

- Bolor is going to Mongolia on Feb 14 for two weeks.
 - Brooksana will provide some Bellingham items for her to take to their Mayor.
 - Ross will write a letter.
- There may be a participant for Sea to Ski coming this year; not sure what leg though.
- Bolor continues to look into the idea of an art exchange – more to come.

Tateyama – Tim Schride

- Tateyama Mayor change: Mr. MORI Shoichi, who took office on December 10, 2022
 - A letter from Mayor MORI Shoichi was shared

Port Stephens – Steve Racich

- Ski to Sea information has been sent.
 - If there are athletes coming, homestay is offered but no funds for travel.
 - Can we get enough folks for an international team?

Nakhodka – No chair

- There is an applicant interested in chairing this City.
 - An interview will be done and recommendation made to Mayor Fleetwood.



Old Business/New Business

Cheongju Call

- Dates for the Mayors to speak have been proposed to Mihwa, the Cheongju staff representative, in late January or early February.
 - Waiting for response.

Tateyama Garden

- Parks and PW will be working on some repair on retaining walls in Spring.
- Russ Islay is the contact for PW.
- Next step is getting the rocks.

Upcoming events for Mayor or City to attend

- Mayor give welcome at the Finnish Film Festival
- Meet Ski to Sea participants.
 - May be a kickoff for Ski to Sea at a local elementary. More details from Ross to come once participants are known.
- Maybe a Mongolian New Year celebration.

Announcements

None

Adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Next meeting April 18, 2023, 5:30 p.m.