



# **SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET**

## **City Council Regular Meeting**

**Monday, October 23, 2023**

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

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### **Homer City Hall**

491 E. Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>  
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;  
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

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### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Written public comments re: Sister City Relationship

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From: David Berry  
To: Melissa Jacobson  
Subject: Public comment for Nov. 13 council meeting  
Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 1:11:11 PM

This is a public comment from Megumi Beams for the Nov. 13 City Council meeting. It's in regard to the Sister City presentation during the COW.

Cheers!  
Dave B.

From: Morikawabeams <morikawabeams@aol.com>  
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 12:25 PM  
To: David Berry <dberry@ci.homer.ak.us>  
Subject: Re: Update on Teshio Stuff

Japanese International Exchange has been developing relationship with our sister city, Teshio, Hokkaido in Japan since 2021. We started to have Japanese class at West Homer and Paul Banks elementary school last year. The students in the class learned to speak in Japanese and had a great opportunity for them to greet the City Council members in Japanese. I am very proud of some of the students' leaders who introduced themselves in Japanese in the public.

They started to write a letter to their first pen pals from Taishi High School, Hyogo in Japan. They also received the cards from them. The students in the second semester last year wrote letters to Teshio Junior High School students who were writing Japanese poems, Haiku, to the students our Japanese class. I am very glad that the students in both countries started to write letters in their second languages to exchange the culture.

We also had our first mini concert as the Sakura band played at the spring concert at Mariner Theatre of Homer High School. The students sang 'Sakura, Sakura' which means 'cherry blossoms' in Japanese, and played the music with some students from Homer Youth String Orchestra Club. They had a wonderful performance. You can enjoy watching the video on West Homer Web site.

At our Japanese tea party with Yunomi which is a tea cup without handles, we celebrated 6<sup>th</sup> graders who are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade now and some teachers who moved to some different schools and towns. Each student created his or her own Yunomi cups for the tea party to serve the tea to their special guests on the last day of the Japanese class.

Some of you might know that I introduced the friendship banners the students from Chapman, West Homer, both Fireweed, McNeil and kindergartens from Paul Banks Elementary School painted to represent our true friendships without boundaries to support peace. Now you can see one of the at Homer Public Library with my Japanese translation. Teshio Junior High School, Hokkaido in Japan received a banner with the letters from the students in the Japanese class last semester.

The students from those schools had a wonderful time with the students who joined some online class sessions at West Homer Elementary School to ask questions and have communication in both languages. They both found that they had some same interests even with different culture. Those special activities are published by The Teshio Magazine. You can check the article, which has letters from Mayor Ken Castner, the principal, Mr. Waltenbaugh and Downtown Rotary Club with my Japanese translations on the bulletin board at school. We are hoping that we can continue to have online class sessions with Teshio Junior High School or High School in Hokkaido and possibly a high school or an elementary school in Hyogo in Japan.

We will have Japanese language, arts and music this year as well. In 2024, we will have 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sister city relationship between the city of Teshio and City of Homer. We will practice one of the Japanese Taiko drums and one of Japanese songs for this special event.

In the past years, youth from sister cities in Hokkaido, Japan and Alaska including our sister city, Teshio and City of Homer had other opportunities to have online forum which was hosted by The Council office of Japan in Anchorage. The youth had a great chance to present their local communities and had a wonderful discussion about the current issues in Japan and Alaska during the forum. It will be happening again in 2024. We are hoping that the youth and adult will participate in the online forum.

Japanese International Exchange and The City of Homer have been planning to have 40th anniversary event in 2024. We appreciate that we can have a great support financially and physically to make a good progress for this special event.

We appreciate your support.

Megumi

Megumi Beams  
Sister City Liaison/ Interpreter  
Japanese International Exchange Coordinator/ Instructor



