

**Red Wing Sister Cities Commission
Workshop
Community Development Building
June 24, 2026**

Members Present: Chair Austin Knott, Commissioners Tammy Jaynes (remote), Ingrid Hokanson, Ashlyn Werner, Danielle DeWitt, Tricia Perau (remote), Alexandra Klitzke, and Kendal Swanson

Members Absent: Commissioners Kimberly Clancy and Renee Kreye (excused absence)

Others Present: Lisa Acker, Staff Liaison

1. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Chair Knott and Commissioners Jaynes, Hokanson, Werner, DeWitt, Perau, Klitzke, and Swanson were in attendance.

Commissioners Kreye and Clancy previously indicated they would be absent.

2. Public Comment

No one wished to address the Commission.

3. Workshop Items

A. Resignation of Commissioner Sheena Whitlock.

Chair Knott acknowledged the resignation of Commissioner Whitlock, who is relocating out of state, and thanked her for her service.

B. Finance Report and Ikata Student Fundraising Update.

Staff Liaison Acker reviewed the recent expenses, donations, fundraising totals, and estimated trip costs. Commissioner Werner and DeWitt presented the gifts purchased for the Ikata Student Exchange. Any remaining fundraising proceeds will be collected after the final grocery-bagging event.

C. Ikata Student Exchange Update.

Commissioner DeWitt shared that July 2 and 3 were the last grocery-bagging dates. She described what would be discussed in the upcoming student prep meeting led by Commissioner Werner. She noted that Commissioners were needed for some upcoming events. Commissioners volunteered for various upcoming events.

Commissioner DeWitt asked what the Commission had for décor and what else would be needed for the event on August 7. The Commission discussed buying some things, checking the closet for supplies, and checking in with Piknik.

Staff Liaison Acker noted that if the Commission purchases anything, keep the receipts for reimbursement.

Commissioner DeWitt stated that on August 2, there would be a parade and Commissioners would be needed to help. Volunteers were identified for the parade.

Commissioner DeWitt asked for volunteers on August 1, 3, 5, and 6 to be with the chaperones on the free days. Commissioners volunteered to help on various days.

The Commission discussed talking to former Commissioner Gretchen Anderson about the other days. Scott Perau offered to take the chaperones on a fishing trip on any day.

The Commissioners discussed a request for Ikata students to stay together during their visit. Commissioners agreed students should remain with their assigned host families, while allowing flexibility if concerns arise.

The Commission discussed the candy needed for the parade and what else would be necessary. Commissioner DeWitt asked about the budget for candy. Staff Liaison Acker noted that she would send the budget.

The Commission discussed signs for the parade. Staff Liaison Acker suggested getting magnetic signs. Commissioner Jaynes will obtain pricing for magnetic parade signs.

Staff Liaison Acker shared that there was an option to sit at the City table for River City Days. The Commission discussed suggestions for River City Days. Staff Liaison Acker will contact past exchange students regarding River City Days and share volunteer opportunities through email and social media.

Staff Liaison Acker confirmed that host family assignments will mirror the arrangements made for the Red Wing students visiting Japan. The Commission determined that vans would not be needed.

D. Quzhou Friendship Delegation Visit.

Staff Liaison Acker informed that no final decision has been made regarding the proposed Quzhou delegation visit. A decision is anticipated before the July Commission meeting. Former Commissioner, Tao Peng noted that using a travel agency could help expedite planning.

E. Quzhou.

Chair Knott reviewed Quzhou's request to display a collage at an annual provincial sporting event. The Commission completed its portions of the project, and Tao photographed the completed materials to send to Quzhou.

4. Adjournment

Chair Knott adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.