

## CITY OF NEWPORT

### RESOLUTION NO. 3870

#### CREATING A SISTER CITY COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF NEWPORT

**WHEREAS**, according to the organization, Sister Cities International, a Sister City relationship is a partnership between two communities in two countries. A relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign off on an agreement to become sister cities; and

**WHEREAS**, after WWII and during the cold war, people were craving a way to promote world peace. Toward that end, the People-to-People Program was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on September 11, 1956 to enhance international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural, and humanitarian activities involving the exchange of ideas and experiences directly among peoples of different countries and diverse cultures. President Eisenhower felt that creating understanding between people was essential to building the road to enduring peace and envisioned programs such as city affiliations, pen-pals, stamp exchanges, international sporting events, musical concerts, hospitality programs, theatrical tours and book drives as the means to achieving that goal - a critical goal in the existing Cold War climate; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 8, 1966, the Sister City agreement between Newport and Mombetsu was signed. In November of 1964, Governor Mark Hatfield visited Hokkaido and offered an Oregon-Hokkaido Sister City plan; and

**Whereas**, after the Governor's visit, a young bank clerk Mr. Kobayashi Shunichi, in Mombetsu, heard about the news, and in December he sent a letter to Newport's Rotary Club looking for a sister city possibility between Newport and Mombetsu. Mr. Connie Gates, the owner of Gates Café and the Rotary chairperson, strongly agreed with the idea from the young fellow in Japan; and

**Whereas**, when Mr. Kobayashi was looking for a potential sister city to contact, he opened a world map and traced the north latitude 44 degrees where Mombetsu is located. He found Newport and researched the city. He learned that Newport was very similar to Mombetsu, and so it began; and

**Whereas**, there were many similarities between the two communities. Newport was incorporated in 1882; Mombetsu merged with nine other villages and became a village in 1880. Beginning in the 1960s, and continuing today, the fishing industry and tourism were the biggest parts of the economies of both cities; and

**Whereas**, in 1965, the City of Newport and the City of Mombetsu, along with each Rotary Club, started sister city committees. Both cities exchanged letters, publications, student's art work, and other items; and

**Whereas**, on April 8, 1966, Lawrence Hull, the manager of the Bank of Newport, was sent to sign the proclamation. Immediately after the document was formalized, a phone call was made to Mombetsu to report its signing. Committee members in Newport were

gathered at the Gates Café and talked with Mr. Hull and the Mombetsu Mayor on the phone! Following the signing ceremony, a reception with 200 citizens was held; and

**Whereas**, official delegations, a year-long high school students' exchange, exchanging student art, local specialty exchanges, and other activities were accomplished many times during the last 53 years; and

**Whereas**, over the years, friendships have been formed on the official level, and individual citizens have built friendships spanning generations; and

**Whereas**, in 2016, Newport and Mombetsu celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sister City relationship by sending delegations to each community to recognize this important milestone; and

**Whereas**, the City of Newport and City of Mombetsu continue to celebrate their long-standing Sister City relationship through cultural exchanges, including one that occurred in early August of 2019; and

**Whereas**, the City of Newport has had an informal ad hoc Sister City Committee that has worked diligently to ensure great exchanges for our visitors and our delegations visiting Mombetsu; and

**Whereas**, the City of Newport wishes to enhance its Sister City relationship by the creation of a formally recognized Sister City Committee.

#### **THE CITY OF NEWPORT RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The City Council of the City of Newport hereby establishes a Sister City Committee, consisting of seven members, with the following composition:

- A. One Member of the City Council; and
- B. Six at-large members interested in the Sister City Program.

The Committee will be supported by staff designated by the City Manager.

**Section 2.** Committee member will be appointed by the City Council for terms of five years.

**Section 3.** The Committee will be charged with:

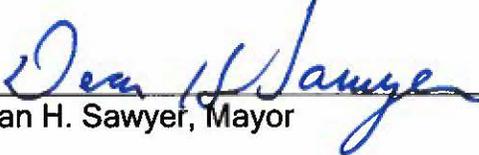
- A. Maintaining communications with the City of Mombetsu on opportunities to collaborate.
- B. Informing, promoting Newport residents about the Sister City relationship with Mombetsu.
- C. Identifying participants for future exchanges.

- D. Planning and executing fundraising events to support Newport students participating in exchanges.
- E. Identifying host families for future exchanges.
- F. Planning activities for exchanges to Newport.
- G. Other responsibilities as identified.

**Section 4.** It is envisioned that the Sister City Committee would hold four meetings annually, and additional meetings as needed during exchanges.

**Section 5.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Newport on September 3, 2019.

  
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Dean H. Sawyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Margaret M. Hawker, City Recorder