

**MINUTES**  
**Meeting with Consul General of Japan**  
**May 19, 2016**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Mayor's Conference Room**  
**6601 Main Street, Miami Lakes, FL 33014**

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting began at 2:08 pm

Present at the meeting were: Consul General Ken Okaniwa; Consulate-General Senior Political Analyst Ernest Aguiar; Mayor Michael Pizzi; Councilmember Tony Lama; Nicole Singletary, Director of Community Engagement & Outreach; Susy Kanner, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Neill Robinson, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair; Mara L. Falero, EDC Chair; Joseph Ascuntar, Mayor's Assistant; and Helen Roldan, Assistant to the Council/Deputy Town Clerk.

**2. Business Items Discussed:**

A. Economic Summit/Creating Jobs

Consul General will forward any Miami Lakes event invitations to Japanese companies in the state. Miami Lakes may use life science industry and other sectors, to appeal to Japanese companies.

B. Sister Cities/ Cultural Exchange

Miami Lakes would need to find a city in Japan that matches the characteristics of our city. Miami Lakes may be able to draw Japanese expatriates into the area, by promoting our schools for their children.

**3. Actions to be Taken:**

- A. The Consul General will send information to Japanese companies for an economic summit hosted by Miami Lakes and will forward any event invitations the Town of Miami Lakes sends out.
- B. The Consul General will organize a site visit with the Miami Lakes officials to Mason Vitamins.
- C. Councilman Lama and Neill Robinson will come up with criteria to select an appropriate city in Japan to match with for a potential Sister City.
- D. Neill Robinson and Cultural Affairs Committee will come up with a budget request for council to review in regards to a program with Japan.
- E. Cultural Affairs Committee to potentially organize a "Sake Tasting Festival" with the help of the Japanese consulate.
- F. Consul General to send list of Japanese Town of Miami Lakes Companies.

**4. Adjournment of Meeting**

There being no further business items to discuss, meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.

Approved this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016

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Michael Pizzi, Mayor

Attest:

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Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk