

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2018

Harmon Conference Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Vern Wirka, Ed Klimek, Liz Beikmann, Dolly Anderson, Karen Wirka, Mila Valenta, Dave Fiser, Jan Janasek, Ron Janasek, and Barry Michie. Staff: Gary Fees.

At 4:05 p.m., Chair Vern Wirka called the meeting to order.

Wirka welcomed everyone to the meeting.

After discussion, Beikmann moved to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2017, meeting. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Several committee members reported receiving Christmas cards from Dobřichovice and former mayor Vaclav Kratochvil.

Beikmann provided an update on the number of students attending Kansas State University from the Czech Republic.

Wirka informed those present that if your email has changed, to please let him know. He discussed additional ways to strengthen our communications and distributed the Czech Slavnosti newspaper published in Wilbur, Nebraska. He discussed writing an article that would include photographs about our Partner City relationship with Dobřichovice and the flag plaza.

Michie discussed activities with the Riley County Genealogical Society and encouraged those interested to research their family history and Czech heritage. He also discussed several upcoming programs and publication opportunities with the Society.

Anderson shared a brief history on her family and research that she has conducted about the rural community of Skiddy, Kansas, located in Morris County

Wirka updated the Committee on pursuing a potential visit from the Czech Republic Consulate in Chicago. He and the committee discussed goals that the Partner City group had discussed earlier. Those goals include strengthen exchange and communication with Partner City elected officials and community (via correspondence, amateur radio communications, engaging and interacting with students attending Kansas State University, encouraging student participation at Partner City meetings, and meetings via Skype); provide programs and speakers at Partner City meetings; revive elementary school exchange program with our Partner City; Czech festival in the completed Peace Memorial Auditorium (with entertainment from the K-State Orchestra and/or the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale, Manhattan High Chorus); invite Consul General of the Czech Republic to be a future speaker and collaborate with Kansas State University; invite representative from the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library to be a potential speaker; and consider a potential trip to the City of Dobřichovice and Czech Republic. The list of goals would be discussed and prioritized at the next Partner City meeting.

After discussion about future programs, Fees would contact Glen Lojka regarding programs.

Wirka stated that he would pursue an article with the Czech newspaper in Wilbur and stated the next meeting would be March 7, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.