

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – May 3, 2017

City Commission Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Ed Klimek, Glen Lojka, Liz Beikmann, Vern Wirka, Karen Wirka, Bill Smriga, Dave Fiser, Ondrej Kokes, Thi Viet Anh Leova, Matej Stejskal, Krystof Novak, and Siqi Wang
Staff: Gary Fees.

At 4:05 p.m., Chair Ed Klimek called the meeting to order.

Klimek welcomed everyone to the meeting and self-introductions were made.

After discussion, Beikmann moved to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2017, meeting. Lojka seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Formal presentations on their respective cities, cultures and families were provided by Krystof Novak and Thi Viet Anh Leova (Martina). In addition, everyone enjoyed delicious kolaches and various foods provided by the Committee and friends to recognize the international students from the Czech Republic that attended Kansas State University.

Klimek, Lojka and Beikmann provided background information on the relationship with our Partner City Dobřichovice and the Czech Republic. They also discussed their friendships with students that attended Kansas State University and who are now living in the Czech Republic.

Siqi Wang, Ondrej Kokes, Matej Stejskal, and the other students provided their experiences while being in Manhattan and exploring other areas in the United States. Siqi talked about the differences in expectations and the rigor of classes at the university in the Czech Republic compared to Kansas State University. Ondrej commented about the people in Manhattan who are always smiling and willing to help you. He thanked the committee and friends for everything and appreciated being welcomed to meetings and to community events by members and friends of the Partner City Committee. Matej stated that he appreciated the natural parks and enjoyed traveling. Krystof said that the university education system is different than what he was accustomed to. He said back home there is only one final exam that counts 100 percent of your grade versus a semester of assignments and exams. He also enjoyed participating and watching sports and stated that he played on the K-State baseball club team. Thi thanked the committee and friends for their outreach and hospitality. She especially thanked Beikmann for everything that she does for the students and making us feel welcomed.

Klimek provided an update on Christy Dowling, former Czech Queen, and stated that she was working on a kolache bake sale to raise funds for the Czech Festival in Wilson.

A photograph of the students and group was taken. Klimek provided each student with a Certificate of Appreciation for being part of the Partner City meetings and to help strengthen collaboration and information between our communities and countries.

Klimek thanked everyone for attending and for bringing food to share. He stated the next Partner City meeting would be at 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.