

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2017

City Commission Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Ed Klimek, Liz Beikmann, Vern Wirka, Dolly Anderson, David Fiser, Mila Valenta, Jan Janasek, Ron Janasek, Mary Ann Buhler, Sara Vytlacil, Jan Mrazek, and Petr Urban. Staff: Gary Fees.

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

After welcomes and discussion, Beikmann moved to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2017, meeting. Wirka seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Beikmann provided an update on the students enrolled at Kansas State University for the fall semester from the Czech Republic.

Jan Mrazek and Petr Urban, students from the Czech Republic attending Kansas State University, provided background information about themselves and their majors.

Klimek thanked the students for attending and encouraged their participation in future Partner City meetings. He also asked the students to invite their friends to our meetings.

Vytlacil provided an update on her recent competition in the National Czech Festival in Wilbur, Nebraska. Sara received second runner-up in the competition. She shared her experiences and components of the competition. The committee and friends congratulated Sara on her accomplishment and for representing the state of Kansas. Several committee members also discussed their experiences attending the most recent and prior National Czech Festival.

Buhler informed the group that she recently attended an organist convention in Iowa and highlighted the Czech architecture and signage in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. She also discussed the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale joint concert with the K-State Orchestra featuring Czech music several years ago.

Klimek and the committee discussed future goals to consider including 1) hosting an event in the Peace Memorial Auditorium after its completion, 2) reviving the school exchange program with our Partner City Dobřichovice, and 3) communicating again with our elected officials with the City of Dobřichovice.

Fiser provided an update on the Peace Memorial Auditorium project, fundraising and future events planned in the Auditorium.

Vytlacil stated that she would follow-up with her school/class about the potential to coordinate an exchange program with a school in Dobřichovice and report back to the committee.

The committee discussed opportunities for future speakers and programs including inviting Sharon Valasek, Honorary Consul, with the Czech Honorary Consulate in Kansas City.

Klimek announced that the next Partner City meeting would be at 4:00 p.m., on October 4, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.