

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2016

Conduff Conference Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Ed Klimek, Liz Beikmann, Glen Lojka, Sara Vytlacil, Vern Wirka, Jan Janasek, Ron Janasek, Mary Ann Buhler, Barry Michie, Mila Valenta, Dave Fiser, Randi Dale, Eva Zurek, and three K-State students. Staff: Gary Fees.

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

Klimek welcomed everyone to the meeting. Joining the meeting via Skype was Petr Hampl, Mayor of the City of Dobřichovice and Vaclav Kratochvil, former Mayor of the City of Dobřichovice.

Klimek thanked Hampl and Kratochvil for staying up late (11:00 p.m. their time) to visit with the Committee and friends. He provided an overview and update on the Partner City Committee and highlighted significant events and activities that have or will be occurring in Manhattan.

Hampl and Kratochvil provided background information on their careers and family. They presented an update on the City of Dobřichovice and explained the make-up of their current elected officials. Hampl stated that he has been mayor since November 2014 and was an administrator of the City of Dobřichovice prior to that. He discussed the visit made by Klimek to Dobřichovice and others that have visited from Manhattan and how enjoyable it is to see our Partner City friends. Kratochvil provided a historical perspective about Dobřichovice and current happenings in the town. He stated that he was very pleased and honored to be part of the flag plaza celebration in Manhattan and enjoyed seeing his friends that have been to Dobřichovice and meeting new friends in Manhattan. He invited everyone in Manhattan to visit him and Petr and to make plans later this year or next year to come to Dobřichovice or Prague.

Everyone introduced themselves to Hampl and Kratochvil. Updates were provided on the community of Manhattan; discussed the number of students attending Kansas State University from the Czech Republic and a high school student that attended Manhattan High School from Dobřichovice; shared information on the Czech Queen contest and judging; highlighted the orchestra performance by the Kansas State University Orchestra and the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale at McCain featuring Czech music to help educate our community on our Partner City relationship; discussed travel plans by several members that plan to be in the Czech Republic this summer; and discussed a possible Czech festival to be held in Manhattan in later 2017. Also, several people were able to converse back and forth speaking Czech and exchanged phrases.

Kratochvil thanked the committee for sending him a copy of the Orchestra performance and stated that it was great concert. Kratochvil and Hampl voiced their appreciation for the relationship that has been established and encouraged both parties to stay connected.

After discussion and recap of the March meeting, Liz Beikmann moved to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2016, meeting. Glen Lojka seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Lojka and several others discussed the recent Czech Festival held in Cuba, Kansas. Lojka also mentioned the upcoming festival in Blue Rapids.

Klimek announced that the next Partner City Advisory Committee meeting would be at 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 4, 2016. He stated this meeting is an opportunity for students to present information about their respective cities and encouraged everyone to bring a snack or Czech dish to share with the group.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.