

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2016

Harmon Conference Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Ed Klimek, Glen Lojka, Dolly Anderson, Vern Wirka, Mary Ann Buhler, Barry Michie, Jan Janasek, Ron Janasek, Dave Fiser, Randi Dale, and Bill Smriga. Staff: Gary Fees.

At 4:10 p.m., Chair Ed Klimek called the meeting to order.

Klimek welcomed everyone to the meeting.

After discussion of the May 4 meeting, Glen Lojka moved to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2016, meeting. Dolly Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Lojka distributed a handout for an upcoming event called "Polka and Pivo Pavilion" to be held in Wilson, Kan., on Friday, July 29, 2016, at the Midland Railroad Hotel. He encouraged everyone to attend the event. He provided an update on Christy Dowling, former Czech Queen and Kansas State University student. He then responded to questions and discussed the process for the Czech Queen pageant and experience being a former pageant judge.

Lojka discussed and presented ideas to improve the signage at the flag plaza that would help promote the Partner City with the City of Dobřichovice, Czech Republic. After discussion, Klimek provided background information on the flag plaza and initial planning. He stated that the flag plaza was patterned after the flag plaza concept in Kansas City, Kan. After further discussion and comments, the consensus was to consider ways to improve the current signage and to discuss the idea further at the next Partner City meeting.

Dave Fiser provided an update on the fundraising efforts of the Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium, a WWII living memorial which honors the 101 service men from Riley County who gave the ultimate sacrifice. He reiterated that the Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium would be interested in working with the Partner City group to have an event in the Auditorium.

Lojka mentioned future program possibilities. After discussion, Fiser agreed to present a program on Czechs in America at the July 6 Partner City meeting.

Randi Dale said the Friends of Peace Memorial would be willing to work on an event with this group and could plan something in the fall of 2017. After discussion, Klimek asked the group to be thinking about having a Czech event and would be discussing this topic in the future.

Dale informed the committee that the Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium would be hosting an event called "Revisiting the Manhattan Tornadoes of 1966, 2008 and the April 2016 Scare." She stated this is a free family event and would be held on Sunday, June 5, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., in the Peace Memorial Auditorium. She encouraged everyone to attend and said that donations would be accepted for the restoration of the lobby and stage.

Bill Smriga provided an update on the K-State Union renovation.

Klimek thanked everyone for attending. He stated the next meeting would be on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, at 4:00 p.m., Harmon Conference Room. He informed the group that there would not be a meeting in August 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.