

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2015

City Commission Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Ed Klimek, Liz Beikmann, Glen Lojka, Barry Michie, Mary Ann Buhler, David Fiser, Eva Zurek, Jan Janasek, Ron Janasek, and Howard Beikmann. Staff: Gary Fees.

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

After discussion, Liz Beikmann moved to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2015, meeting. Glen Lojka seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Beikmann announced that she needed to leave the meeting to pick up a student from the Czech Republic at the MHK Airport.

Lojka introduced today's program with Barry Michie. He stated that the July meeting would include a presentation from Amy Rosine, School of Music, Theatre and Drama, from Kansas State University, with information and photographs from their recent trip to Prague and to our Partner City Dobřichovice. He also provided information on the Summer Conclave Czech Festival in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, held in May and stated that Sara Vytlačil represented Kansas very well as our Czech Queen.

Barry Michie distributed a book written by Benjamin Kuras "Czechs and Balances." He provided information on the Kansas State University Office of International Programs and exchange programs established during his tenure as former program officer of International Programs with Kansas State University. He provided historical information on the significance of Dr. Joe Barton-Dobenin as he was instrumental in establishing the study exchange and scholarship program with universities in the Czech Republic and Kansas State University. He discussed the exchange programs established in or near Prague with Czech Technical University, Charles University, University of Economics, University of Chemistry and Technology, and Czech University of Life Science. He reported that approximately 30 students participated last year and that one of the first students involved in the program was Katrina Lewis, currently Associate Professor, Interior Architecture and Product Design, at Kansas State University. He stated that Dr. Barton-Dobenin played a significant role in identifying and establishing the Partner City relationship between the City of Dobřichovice and the City of Manhattan, as did officials with the City of Dobřichovice and former Mayor Ed Klimek and members of the Manhattan City Commission. He also discussed his travels to the Czech Republic with the Barton-Dobenin's and provided additional background information about Joe's family, their castle and property in the Czech Republic as well as Joe's experiences during the communist era. He stated that for additional information about the study abroad program and current international activities to contact Brent Holliday, Study Abroad Advisor, at Kansas State University. After further discussion on the topic and sharing of cultural perspectives between the Czech Republic and the United States, everyone thanked Barry for an informative and excellent presentation.

The committee and friends discussed future programs and the possibility of an update on the Helping International Students program.

Klimek expressed his appreciation to Vytlačil for updating new photographs on Facebook. He announced that the next Partner City Advisory Committee meeting would be at 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, July 1, 2015, Harmon Conference Room, at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.