

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – September 2, 2015

Harmon Conference Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Ed Klimek, Liz Beikmann, Dolly Anderson, Pamela Hatesohl, Glen Lojka, Sara Vytlacil, Milan Zelenka, Pavel Janovsky, Filip Stanek, Dave Fiser, Mary Ann Buhler, Eva Zurek, and Bill Smriga. **Staff:** Gary Fees.

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

After discussion, Liz Beikmann moved to approve the minutes from the July 1, 2015, meeting. Dolly Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Sara Vytlacil provided an update on her recent Czech National Queen Pageant held August 1 and 2, 2015, at Wilbur, Nebraska. She provided photos of herself and the finalists participating in the competition. The Committee and friends expressed their congratulations to Sara for representing the state of Kansas so very well.

Glen Lojka shared his experience as a former judge for the state and national Czech Queen Pageant competitions. He also provided information on the Kansas State Czech/Slovak Organization and Constitution that was recently adopted in Wilson, Kansas during their July 2015 meeting.

Klimek distributed a recent article about William and Marilyn Taylor from Olathe, Kansas. The Taylor's daughter, Megan, died from injuries sustained in a bicycle accident while on a high school trip in Germany. To honor their daughter, they established the Megan E. Taylor Czech Republic Student Award in 2008. The award supports both K-State and Czech students, ensuring a greater international exchange. Since its establishment, 51 K-State and Czech students have received scholarships to study abroad. K-State students study at the University of Economics in Prague, and Czech students from the University come to K-State. He stated this is a wonderful program and great opportunity for students.

The committee and friends also discussed the Joe and Elizabeth Barton-Dobenin International Exchange Scholarship program that was established with the Kansas State University Foundation. Beikmann provided background information on the history of the scholarship and the current status of the scholarship program. She then responded to questions from the Committee and friends.

After additional discussion and concerns expressed by several members of the Committee, Beikmann offered to find out additional information on the status of the scholarship that was established by the Barton-Dobenin's and report back at the next Partner City meeting.

Dave Fiser provided an update on fundraising efforts with Peace Memorial Auditorium and upcoming events to raise awareness and funds for the Auditorium improvements. He asked if the group would be interested in having an event when the Auditorium was completed.

Mary Ann Buhler provided information on the Flint Hills Master Works Chorale and upcoming calendar of events.

Lojka, Program Committee Chair, introduced Liz Beikmann as today's presenter.

Beikmann presented a very interesting history lesson and demonstration on wheat straw weaving. She displayed several of her beautifully made, hand-crafted pieces and responded to questions. The Committee and friends thanked Liz for an excellent program.

Klimek and Lojka thanked the students for attending and asked if they would be interested in presenting information about their hometowns and country at a future meeting.

Klimek announced that the next meeting would be October 7, 2015, at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.