

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2015

Harmon Conference Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Ed Klimek, Glen Lojka, Dolly Anderson, Sara Vytlacil, Mary Ann Buhler, Eva Zurek, Vern Wirka, Jan Janasek, Ron Janasek, Dave Fiser, Martha Seaton, Milan Zeleuka and Matej Petrik. **Staff:** Gary Fees.

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

Klimek welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

After discussion and recap of the last meeting, Dolly Anderson moved to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2015, meeting. Glen Lojka seconded the motion. The committee also discussed future programs and appreciated Lojka's efforts to coordinate programs and to continue as Vice Chair and Klimek to continue as Chair. After discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Klimek provided an update on former Czech Queen and K-State graduate Christy Dowling. He stated that she is continuing her efforts with the Kansas Czechs, Inc. Membership and will be creating a newsletter. He stated that membership is open to all people of Czech or Slovak ancestry and to all others with a strong interest in the Czech/Slovak culture. He said that membership fees are \$5.00 per person for a lifetime membership and distributed application forms to those interested.

Klimek also reminded everyone that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, with the K-State students and presentations about their home country and hometowns. The meeting will be in the City Commission Room, at City Hall, starting at 4:00 p.m. He encouraged all to attend and to bring a small food dish, especially kolache, to share with the group.

Lojka stated that the Kansas Czech annual meetings are held on the last weekend of July to coincide with the Wilson Czech Festival. He encouraged those that have not attended the Czech Festival to do so. The committee members and friends that attended the Czech Festival in the past discussed their experiences.

Sara Vytlacil provided an update on the Czech Festival held in Cuba, Kansas two weeks ago and distributed a draft brochure that she was working on to promote our Partner City relationship and activities of the committee. She informed the committee and friends that she was planning to visit Prague this summer as part of a student study program.

Lojka stated that Eva Zurek presented an excellent program at the last Partner City meeting and introduced her to present part two of her presentation.

Zurek continued her presentation on "The History of Roma People in the Czech Republic." Her presentation began with the period following World War II and continued with several significant events, concluding with a 2014 government report called, "Solutions." She highlighted Bill No. 74 that was enacted in 1958 requiring permanent residency and assistance to provide work for Gypsies; presented key activities in the 1960s; discussed the Normalization

period; highlighted activities and events that occurred after 1989; and provided information on the Market Economy, ghettos, and segregation in the schools. She presented several photographs and short clips from several well-known movies including *Gypsies go to Heaven* (1976, USSR), *Cigán* (2011, Czech Republic), and *Aferim!* (during Roma slavery, Romania) She then responded to questions from the committee and friends. She was thanked for her efforts to create and provide an informative and very well-done presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.