

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2014

Harmon Conference Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Ed Klimek, Liz Beikmann, Glen Lojka, Jan Janasek, Ron Janasek, Mary Ann Buehler, Martha Seaton, David Littrell, Dave Fiser, Jessie Brockway, and Eva Zurek. Staff: Gary Fees.

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

Chair Klimek welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Liz Beikmann provided an update on the number of Czech students she was aware of attending Kansas State University this semester. She also provided an overview on the annual Helping International Students (HIS) dinner.

Klimek highlighted items to strengthen our relationship with the city of Dobrichovice and provided an overview on how the partner city was established. He provided information to the Committee on his conversations with Dr. David Littrell for a potential concert featuring Czech music. He then introduced Dr. David Littrell, Distinguished Professor, Orchestra – School of Music, Theatre and Dance at Kansas State University.

Dr. Littrell informed the Committee that he has talked with Klimek about a possible orchestra concert in October 2014. He stated that a concert would be held in McCain Auditorium as part of their annual concert series. After discussion and comments from the Committee, Dr. Littrell stated that the concert could include coordination with the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale and Professor Reginald Pittman.

After additional discussion of the Committee, there was a consensus that this was a great idea.

Dr. Littrell and Klimek responded to questions from the Committee regarding the proposed event and venue. Dr. Littrell stated the event would most likely be on Tuesday, October 14 or Tuesday, October 21, 2014. He stated that the concerts are typically an hour and a half in length, would be free to the public, and attendance averages 400 to 500 people.

There was discussion and ideas suggested to recognize the Partner City relationship during the event and an opportunity to also recognize Dr. Joe Barton-Dobenin for his work at Kansas State University and his role in the selection of the Partner City between Manhattan and Dobrichovice.

Klimek provided additional historical information on the selection process and distinction between being a sister city and partner city.

Dr. Littrell provided additional information and indicated that the plan would be to target Tuesday, October 21, 2014, as the concert date.

Klimek informed Dr. Littrell that the Committee could assist with the promotion, reception and provide a welcome in the program or a few brief comments to recognize our partner city

relationship with Dobrichovice. The Committee thanked Dr. Littrell and discussed additional ways to assist and for the students and Czech queens to be involved.

Beikmann discussed the possibility of a group tour to the Czech Republic next year and was willing to help coordinate a trip if there was an interest.

Glen Lojka stated that he was aware of six couples that would be interested in a trip to our partner city, Prague and the Czech Republic.

Beikmann stated that she would follow-up with the tour company and provide additional details.

Lojka informed the Committee that a Rock-a-Thon was scheduled for March 15 in Cuba, Kansas and the April Czech event in Blue Rapids, Kansas.

Jessie Brockway informed the Committee that she attended a Czech Club meeting last night at the Kansas City Public Library

Klimek thanked everyone for attending the meeting and voiced excitement for the proposed concert with Dr. David Littrell. He announced that the next Partner City Advisory Committee meeting would be at 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.