

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2014

City Commission Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Ed Klimek, Liz Beikmann, Glen Lojka, Bill Smriga, Mary Ann Buehler, Ron Janasek, Jan Janasek, and Dave Fiser. Staff: Gary Fees.

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

Chair Klimek welcomed everyone to the meeting. He provided a recap of the last meeting and the wonderful presentations from the Czech students.

The Committee discussed the recent vandalism to the lights in the Flag Plaza. It was reported that Parks and Recreation staff and the City electrician are working on getting new parts to replace the damage lights. Klimek reported that he had an extra Czech Republic and City of Dobrichovice flag available when needed.

Glen Lojka provided an update on Czech festivals in the region. He informed the Committee that the annual Wilson Czech Festival will be held on July 24 through 26.

Bill Smriga reported that he would be traveling to the Czech Republic later this month. He stated that he and his spouse were planning to stay with former students that have attended Kansas State University during their travels.

Liz Beikmann informed the Committee that she is also planning a trip to Prague in August. She indicated plans to see as many as 200 former students that attended Kansas State University and informed the Committee that she did not know how many students from the Czech Republic were attending K-State this fall.

Beikmann also presented a tentative proposal to travel to the Czech Republic September 15 through 25, 2015, and estimated costs. Possible itinerary includes Prague; Dobrichovice; Pilsen; Nizbaor; Melink (wine festival), Litomerice, Terezin (former Nazi concentration camp and walled city); Kutna Hora (bones church, silver museum and cathedral); Cesky Krumlov (castle on UNESCO list); organ concert and folk music by the Trehusk Band (the band that came to Manhattan); visit to Zbraslav (Barton-Dobenin's town and castle); shopping, and free time to explore. The Committee discussed additional points of interest and talked about sending out a tentative travel itinerary to see how many people would be interested in a group trip to the Czech Republic and to our Partner City Dobrichovice. She requested that those that are interested to let her know. The Committee thanked Liz for her work for assembling information to consider and tentative travel ideas.

Klimek and Mary Ann Buehler briefly discussed the upcoming concert featuring Czech music in October at McCain Auditorium. The concert would be coordinated by Dr. Littrell and would include a performance by the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale.

Klimek announced that there would not be a meeting in July and that the next Partner City Advisory Committee meeting would be at 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, August 6, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.