

# Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – September 3, 2014

City Commission Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

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**Attendance:** Ed Klimek, Dolly Anderson, Glen Lojka, Pamela Hatesohl, Bill Smriga, Mary Ann Buhler, Martha Seaton, Ron Janasek, Jan Janasek, Dr. David Littrell, David Fiser, Sara Vytlacil, and international K-State students Martin Patrman, Matej Uhrin, Ondrej Kollert, Pavel Janovsky, Ondvej Kuzela, Ladislav Vrbsky, and Radim Dudek. Staff: Gary Fees.

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

Chair Klimek welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Klimek provided an overview on the history of the Partner City relationship between the City of Manhattan and the City of Dobrichovice.

Dr. David Littrell provided an update on the orchestra concert being planned and stated that the date is confirmed and will be held Tuesday, October 21, starting at 7:30 p.m., at McCain Auditorium. He provided an overview on the music selection and opportunities to highlight the partnership between the City of Manhattan and Dobrichovice, Czech Republic. He stated that the Czech Queen and others could be in costume during the program and Klimek could provide brief remarks on the partner city relationship and connections made with international students from the Czech Republic attending Kansas State University.

Sara Vytlacil stated that she would try to get others to also wear their Kroje (Czech costumes) and could hand out programs and be in the lobby to greet people.

Dolly Anderson informed the group that she would bring the photograph of Joe and Elizabeth Barton-Dobenin to be displayed and would send an electronic version to Dr. Littrell to be included in the program. Anderson provided background information on the Barton-Dobenin's and their family's history in the Czech Republic, Nebraska and at Kansas State University.

Klimek provided additional information on the significance Joe Barton-Dobenin played in finding our partner city of Dobrichovice. He also discussed the scholarship program that Dr. Barton-Dobenin initiated at Kansas State University with the Czech Republic.

Dr. Littrell and Klimek provided additional information on the orchestra concert, the concert format, the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale, the printed programs, the Czech and Dobrichovice flags, and responded to questions from the group. Klimek stated that he would follow-up with Liz Beikmann and ask that she prepare a brief background on the Barton-Dobenin's for the concert program. The group also discussed participation of the Kansas Czech Queen and acknowledgment of students on the stage when Klimek presents information on the partner city relationship.

The committee and students discussed the possibility of the students producing a short video presentation with photos from the Czech Republic and their hometowns that could be displayed on the screens inside the lobby at McCain for viewing before the concert. There was also discussion of music being played in the lobby before the concert.

Glen Lojka provided an update on the different Czech festivals in Kansas.

Vytlacil provided an overview on the state of Kansas Czech Queen selection process and talked about the national Czech Queen competition to be held in Wilbur, Nebraska next year.

Klimek and Bill Smriga reminded those interested in a possible trip to the Czech Republic next year, to contact Liz Beikmann (who is traveling in Prague and Europe) as soon as possible. They reiterated that the travel company is requesting that they need at least 20 people for a group travel tour.

Klimek announced that the next Partner City Advisory Committee meeting would be at 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, October 1, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.