

# Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2018

Harmon Conference Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

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Attendance: Vern Wirka, Liz Beikmann, Glen Lojka, Barry Michie, Mary Ann Buhler, Jan Janasek, Ron Janasek, Mila Valenta, Karen Wirka, and Dave Fiser. Staff: Gary Fees.

At 4:05 p.m., Chair Vern Wirka called the meeting to order.

Wirka welcomed everyone to the meeting.

After discussion, Beikmann moved to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2018, meeting. Lojka seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Wirka distributed an article recently published in the Czech Slavnosti newspaper about our Partner City relationship between the City of Manhattan and the City of Dobřichovice.

The Committee discussed and prioritized prior goals and after discussion, the consensus was to focus on the following: 1) strengthen our exchange and communications with our Partner City; 2) revitalize the school exchange program with our Partner City; 3) explore opportunities for potential visit to the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library; and 4) consider a potential exchange trip to the City of Dobřichovice and the Czech Republic.

Lojka updated the Committee and friends on the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cuba, Kansas, Rock-A-Thon. He stated the annual event would start March 18 through March 24. He highlighted various activities during the week and encouraged everyone to attend, especially, the Czech Day on Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

Beikmann and the Committee also discussed the Prague Spring 50 event to be held April 3 – 7, 2018, at the Sheldon Museum of Art, sponsored by the Department of History at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Fees introduced Steve Bietau, former K-State tennis coach for 30 years and a frequent traveler in the Czech Republic. Steve shared his experiences internationally and working with and recruiting athletes from the Czech Republic to Kansas State University. He also provided his perspectives on the students and families he worked with in the Czech Republic as well as shared his collection of glassware from various cities in the Czech Republic. The Committee and friends thanked Steve for an informative presentation.

Michie and the Committee discussed the Sunflower Journeys program featuring the annual Wilson Czech Festival, which included Lojka, Sara Vytlačil, and Christy Dowling.

Wirka stated that the next Partner City meeting would be would be April 4, 2018, at 4:00 p.m., in the Harmon Conference Room, City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.