

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2018

City Commission Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Vern Wirka, Liz Beikmann, Ed Klimek, Bill Smriga, Karen Wirka, Mila Valenta, Dave Fiser, Kay Fiser, Milan Klempay and Natalie Bartlova. Staff: Gary Fees.

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

Wirka welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Natalie Bartlova from Prague, student at Charles University, provided a presentation on the history of the Czech Republic. She highlighted famous sports figures in the Czech Republic, showed a video demonstrating the culture of the Czech Republic and beautiful cities including Dobřichovice, and presented the significant differences between the Czech Republic and the United States. Natalie responded to questions and highlighted her experience in Kansas and attending Kansas State University.

Bill Smriga introduced Milan Klempay from Slovakia, student at Czech Technical University in Prague. Milan provided background information on the culture and history of Slovakia. He presented a home video of climbing rocks and waterfalls in Slovakia. He said that Bill plans to visit him this summer in Slovakia. Milan then responded to questions and discussed his experience at Kansas State University and being in the United States.

Everyone thanked the students for their presentations and enjoyed desserts provided by the Committee and friends to recognize our international students that attended Kansas State University. A group photo was taken and Wirka distributed each student with a Certificate of Appreciation for being part of the Partner City meeting and sharing information and collaboration between our countries and communities.

After discussion, Beikmann moved to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2018, meeting. Klimek seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Wirka provided an update on a potential visit to the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After meeting with the City's Risk Manager, he relayed the concerns with liability and insurance coverage for out of state travel. He stated that we need to determine how many are interested or if this would be better to do on an individual basis for those interested. After discussion, he highlighted Chamber organized trips and the amount of time and effort necessary to coordinate, plan and promote accordingly.

Wirka thanked everyone for attending and expressed appreciation to the student presentations. Due to being in a tornado watch notice, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.