

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – September 5, 2018

Harmon Conference Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Vern Wirka, Liz Beikmann, Ed Klimek, Bill Smriga, Mila Valenta, Mary Ann Buhler, Ron Janasek, Karen Wirka, and Tracy Weaver. 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.

After discussion, Liz Beikmann moved to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2018, meeting. Ed Klimek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wirka introduced Tracy Weaver and informed the group that they met at the Czech Festival in Wilson, Kansas. Weaver provided information on himself and stated that he played the accordion and shared his interests in Czech heritage.

Klimek reported that he also attended the Czech Festival and provided an update on the activities in Wilson, the Czech queen pageant, and the parade. He informed the Committee that Christy Dowling, a Kansas State University alum and former Czech Queen, told him that her sister would be coordinating the pageant in the future.

Wirka stated that he and his spouse Karen attended the Czech Festival as well and provided additional information. He said it was an enjoyable event and encouraged everyone to attend next year. He informed the Committee that the Nebraska Czechs of York, Nebraska will be celebrating their Czech heritage with an annual October Czechfest on October 21, 2018, and planned to attend.

Ron Janasek provided an update on the Czech Festival in Cuba and the Republic County Fall Czech Festival in Munden, Kansas that is held the last Sunday of October.

Mary Ann Buhler provided an update on Committee member Glen Lojka.

Liz Beikmann reported that there are nine students from the Czech Republic attending Kansas State University this semester.

Wirka discussed future programs and introduced Bill Smriga, Director of the K-State Union, as today's presenter. Smriga provided a presentation from his recent 16-day trip to the Czech Republic and Slovakia. He presented many photographs from the two countries including castles, cemeteries, churches, synagogues, monuments, former concentration camps, landscapes, festivals, food, and a history of his family. He highlighted former students from the Czech Republic and Slovakia that attended Kansas State University that he was able to spend time with during his trip. The Committee thanked Bill for a wonderful presentation.

Wirka stated that the next Partner City meeting would be Wednesday, October 3, 2018, at 4:00 p.m., at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.