

# Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2018

City Commission Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

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**Attendance:** Liz Beikmann, Ed Klimek, Vern Wirka, Barry Michie, Mila Valenta, Jan Janasek, Ron Janasek, Mary Ann Buhler, and students attending Kansas State University from the Czech Republic Dominik Sivale and Jan Bednar. Staff: Gary Fees.

At 4:20 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 October 3, 2018, meeting. Ed Klimek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Jan and Ron Janasek reported that they attended the Republic County Fall Czech Festival in Munden and talked with former Committee member Sara Vytlacil. There was discussion about opportunities for a classroom exchange with our Partner City in Dobřichovice and the Janasek's reported that Sara is considering teaching opportunities in the Czech Republic next fall.

Wirka discussed the Czech language program offered by Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce, Professor at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and a native Czech speaker. He also highlighted the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia and observation in the Czech Republic.

Dominik Sivale and Jan Bednar provided background information about themselves and their home country. They shared their experiences in Kansas as well as at Kansas State University.

Wirka provided the students with an overview on the history of Czech people moving to and living in Kansas and throughout the Midwest. The Committee thanked the students for attending and sharing their experiences. Wirka presented each student with a certificate of appreciation.

Wirka encouraged the students to attend the December Partner City meeting and encouraged them to bring their friends as well as everyone to bring a favorite food dish to share. Wirka stated that the next Partner City meeting would be Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at 4:00 p.m., at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.