

# Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2019

Harmon Conference Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

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Attendance: Vern Wirka, Liz Beikmann, Dolly Anderson, Barry Michie, Jan Janasek, Ron Janasek, Mary Ann Buhler, Karen Wirka, David Fiser, and Sara Vytlačil. Staff: Gary Fees.

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

Chair Wirka welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded those attending that the February 2019 meeting was cancelled due to the ice storm.

After discussion, Liz Beikmann moved to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2018, meeting. Dolly Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wirka announced that the April meeting is being planned via Zoom with former mayor Vaclav Kratochvil, Mayor Petr Hampl and fellow council members in Dobřichovice. After further discussion, Wirka stated that depending on coordination, the meeting would start at 12:00 Noon instead of 4:00 p.m.

Wirka introduced the topic of a possible festival or event and welcomed Christy Dowling to provide information about the Wilson Czech Festival.

Christy Dowling is a Kansas State University graduate and former United States Czech Queen and Kansas Czech Queen. Dowling provided an overview on the planning and preparations for the annual Czech Festival in Wilson, Kansas. She highlighted several considerations in the planning efforts, including determining the location of the event, providing ample parking, considering the time of year so that it does not conflict with other significant events in the community, coordinating with other Czech events and with the Kansas Czech Association, and considering activities for children and adults that will draw interest to your event.

Dave Fiser provided an overview on the events associated with the dedication of the Czech Plaza and guests that were here from Dobřichovice as well as band members that performed at the dedication and at Amanda Arnold, Kansas State University and in Aggieville. He stated that if the Committee is interested in pursuing a festival or event, Randi Dale with the Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium may be interested in helping promote the event if it is held in the Auditorium. He provided background information about the improvements that have been made in the Auditorium and in the lobby at City Hall.

After further discussion and responded to questions from the Committee, Dowling stated that determining the date and location will be one of the first considerations that will need to be made. She recommended allowing at least one year for planning the event before the date of the event. She stated the annual Wilson Czech Festival is organized by a committee who volunteers their time to plan and organize the event. She responded to questions regarding vendors, event promotion and publicity, decorations, and communication with the Czech Republic's consulate in Kansas City.

The Committee discussed the importance that if an event is pursued, that it be a family event with activities for all ages, both indoors and outdoors. There was also discussion about possible musicians and the potential to partner with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Kansas State University, as well as other community members.

Mary Ann Buhler stated that the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale, that performed for the flag plaza dedication, would not be available until late September.

After further discussion and comments, Wirka stated that we will continue to discuss the topic and explore the potential of an event in late September 2020.

Sara Vytlačil, former Committee member, announced that she planned to teach in China next school year.

Wirka announced that the next meeting would be at 12:00 Noon, April 3, 2019, depending on confirmation with our Partner City representatives in Dobřichovice.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.