

Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 5, 2019

Harmon Conference Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Attendance: Vern Wirka, Liz Beikmann, Dolly Anderson, Ed Klimek, Karen Wirka, Jan Janasek, Ron Janasek, Mary Ann Buhler, and Bill Smriga. Staff: Gary Fees.

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

Chair Wirka welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Bill Smriga as today's presenter.

Bill Smriga presented information on his recent trip to the 50th Annual Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln Czech Festival held May 5, 2019, at the Pla-Mor Ballroom. He presented slides from the Czech Festival including vendors, entertainment, food, Christmas ornaments, Czech queen and princess contest, and distributed information from various vendors and future festivals throughout the state of Nebraska. He distributed a brochure listing information on the 2019 Nebraska Czech-Slovak festivals including Lincoln, Omaha, Hastings, Clarkson, Dwight, Wilber, Prague, and York. He also highlighted the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Genealogical and Cultural Conference to be held in Lincoln October 15-19, 2019. The committee and friends thanked Bill for an excellent update from the Lincoln Czech Festival.

Wirka read an email received from Christy Dowling. Christy stated that she was unable to attend today's meeting, but wanted to extend an invitation to everyone to attend the annual Czech Festival in Wilson on July 26-27. Wirka highlighted the events provided by Christy for both days and stated that if anyone wants more information, to contact Christy. He stated that he planned to attend the event.

After discussion, Liz Beikmann moved to approve the minutes from the April 3 and March 13, 2019, meetings. Dolly Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Wirka provided an update on discussions to host a festival in the fall of 2020. The committee discussed the item and wanted additional information and ideas from the Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau and to follow-up with Christy Dowling after their annual Czech Festival in Wilson. It was discussed that they would be invited to attend the August meeting.

Mary Ann Buhler informed the committee that the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale would be willing to participate in the event.

Liz Beikmann provided information on the number of students expected to attend Kansas State University from the Czech Republic this fall.

Wirka announced that there would not be a Partner City meeting in July and that the next meeting would be at 4:00 p.m., August 7, 2019, in the Harmon Conference Room, City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.