

# Partner City Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2019

Harmon Conference Room, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

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Attendance: Vern Wirka, Liz Beikmann, Dolly Anderson, Ed Klimek, Barry Michie, Bill Smriga, and Rod Kalivoda. Staff: Gary Fees.

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

Chair Wirka welcomed Rod Kalivoda to the meeting. Mr. Kalivoda provided background information about himself and his family as well as his interests in the Czech Republic and the Partner City Committee. He thanked Mr. Klimek for inviting him to the meeting.

Wirka congratulated Dolly Anderson on her recent reappointment and Bill Smriga on his appointment by Mayor Dodson and the Commission to the Partner City Advisory Committee.

After discussion, Ed Klimek moved to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2019, meeting. Dolly Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Wirka highlighted the annual Czech Festival in Wilson that he recently attended. He provided an overview on his discussion with Christy Dowling regarding the history of their Festival and background information as we consider hosting a festival later next year. The Committee discussed requirements and planning efforts to host a festival as well as discussed the vendors, food, entertainment, and logistics of the annual Juneteenth event held in City Park.

Bill Smriga provided an overview on the Czech Days in Wilbur, Nebraska. He highlighted various events including the parade, entertainment, vendors, and the Miss Czech-Slovak pageant.

The Committee discussed potential items that would attract people for a Czech festival. In general, the Committee expressed a desire to keep it simple, to be family oriented, to let it grow over time, for the event to be manageable, to engage community partnerships, and to encourage our friends from Dobřichovice to join us. There was also discussion about potential fundraising ideas and possible foundation and Czech Consulate grant opportunities. Wirka asked that Committee members develop a list of opportunities and challenges to host a Czech festival. He asked that members submit their items to Gary or bring them to the next meeting for discussion.

After additional discussion, the Committee discussed potential future agenda items and programs. The Committee asked that Karen Hibbard, Director, Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau, be invited to attend the September meeting.

Liz Beikmann provided an update on students anticipated this semester attending K-State from the Czech Republic.

Wirka announced that the next Partner City meeting would be at 4:00 p.m., September 4, 2019, in the Harmon Conference Room, City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.