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Advisory Commission on International Relationships

Meeting date: March 22, 2011

Members present: Carol Lindseth, Cyndi Baker, Natalia Hager, Deb Hanson, Janet McLeod, Kay Silk

Meeting called to order at 7:14 PM

Minutes: Carol presented the minutes of February 22, 2011; Cyndi moved to accept the minutes as read, Kay seconded, and the motion carried to approve the minutes.

Financial Report - Treasurer Natalia Hager reports that our current balance is \$9,355.83.

Board training. Many of the ACIR members attended the board training sponsored by the City of Great Falls and the consensus of the group is that it was very worthwhile. Everyone agreed that the presenter was excellent and the hope is that he will be invited back and the training will be offered again.

Website - Discussion of the website was tabled for the next meeting, as Carol hadn't been given the Wi-Fi-password needed to access the Intranet in the Civic Center. The board hopes to preview the ACIR pages on the City of Great Falls' website.

Committee Reports -

Hosting for 2011. Open World has Great Falls ACIR on their list of possible destinations for 2011. There is one hosting on the Open World schedule for December 2011 and its focus is on health.

Speakers. Cyndi presented ideas for finding suitable speakers for a community event: college professors, members of MANG who have deployed and returned, local church laypeople who travel for mission work, politicians, telecasters, public figures. Carol mentioned part of the strategic plan is to have two or three speakers during the year and to invite the community. One possibility is Mark Johnson, who is well versed on the Middle East. The purpose and scope of the talks would be kept different from the library's lunch learning program or the U to You program. The goal is to keep the topics current and relevant, (i.e. Japan, Libya). Each board member is tasked with networking to get ideas for public speakers and to bring possible sources/names to upcoming meetings.

Social events. Plans were made for the pizza party for international exchange students to be held April 13th from 5 -7 in the McLaughlin Center. The number of students in the city from both high schools and colleges is over 50. Preliminary plans are for 90 people, which would include host families. Specific plans discussed include holding activities for the students on one side of the room with host families seated on the other side; long tables set up for eating, name-tags for each person as they arrive, icebreakers and games ongoing, music, and photos. Each board member will bring two or three icebreaker ideas to the next board meeting for Kay. Deb will bring CD's of international music to Janet who will prepare a playlist. Cyndi will prepare press releases for the newspaper & television. Janet will submit the announcement for posting on the website.

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Discussion followed regarding a budget amount for this event. Deb moved that the budget be set at \$500; Cyndi seconded, and the motion carried.

Sister cities. Cyndi has discovered that a local boy scout leader Greg Holtz is listed as a sister city on a website she found and would like to approach him about partnering with us. Carol is acquainted with him and will follow up. As for the "Carb Party" April 16th for the Lethbridge group coming to the Icebreaker Race, it is very close to the exchange students' pizza party and on the same night as several community events. Those on the board who are planning the event were not in attendance, so there was no further discussion.

Public Comment - no public comment.

Next meeting - April 26, 2011 at 7 PM at the Civic Center

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Janet McLeod