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Advisory Commission on International Relationships

Meeting date: March 27, 2012

Members present: Cyndi Baker, Janet McLeod, Kay Silk, Robin Baker, Pam Haugen, Sean Johnson, Natalia Hager, Anders Blewett

Meeting called to order by Sean at 7:05 PM

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

Financial Report - Last month's meeting our balance was \$8,751.25. Natalia reported no changes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website -

Janet updated everyone on the current state of the website. It has been merged into the City's new website. Janet went in to GoDaddy and pointed the site to the City's new website and talked with Joyce Thares about navigating the current site. Minutes and agendas are not as easy to find but are contained under the Resource Center. Joyce explained that she and Carol Lindseth agreed that the old events and photos were not relevant and didn't need to be brought over to the new site. Janet will send information to Joyce regarding Col. Bannon to be posted on the City calendar and our website.

Harold in Lethbridge -

No word from Harold.

Open World Hosting - May 19 (Saturday) through May 26 (Saturday). Robin updated the Commission on the remaining task list for the upcoming hosting. Host family bios need to be made available; we need to finish filling out the itinerary. The committee (Robin, Christina, Sean, Natalia) will sit down together and finalize the agenda. Open World has to sign off on the educational program we are planning. Activities for social events were discussed. Monday and Friday have to be in Great Falls. Monday could be farmers' coops; Friday is the wrap up meeting and farewell dinner (Jaker's worked out well). Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday need to be scheduled out. We still need a van driver and someone to accompany the team daily.

We cannot use Taunya as an interpreter this year because Open World is requiring Tajik interpreters vs. Russian interpreters, even though Russian is spoken there. Most delegates will speak some Russian, so those hosts who speak Russian will be able to communicate to some degree. We get both an interpreter and a facilitator, and they will speak English as well as Tajik or Russian. Open World didn't like the idea of an interpreter from the University of Montana - they require a certified interpreter. We still don't know how many will be coming, but the guess is 6-7.

Sean reviewed Tajikistan, pointing out that they share culture, language and history with Iran and Afghanistan. Historically, they are Persian. They had a civil war in the 90's and lost a lot of industry

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and the Russian population. They have been very poor; they were once protected by the socialist Bolsheviks, but after the wall fell, they have been very poor. Religion wise, they are not very traditionally Islamic. The illegal drug pathway runs through Tajikistan. Very mountainous region. Currency is the somoni. Most wealthy districts cater to the few wealthy and the expats who are there - embassy personnel, Chinese businessmen. Just a block or so further is like a 3rd world country.

Col. Bannon

April 10th 6 PM at the library. - the initial meet and greet is at 5:30 with cookies and coffee. He has been connected to all the radio stations and has been interviewed by several. He did a piece with the *Tribune* and there has been a concerted effort to get the word out. Sean will ask Carol to present it to Rotary Club; Anders will get it out to the director of Leadership Great Falls and post pictures on Facebook. The press release on the website has been sent to the newspaper and KRTV. Robin is picking up cookies and setting up coffee. Christina, Bob, Anders, and Sean will meet this week to solidify details of the event. We will have an ACIR table at the event. Cyndi will gather the ACIR info to give out. Robin will bring the banner and assist. Sean will ACIR to open the meeting. Sean may find a sharp high schooler from the War-Fare event at GFHS to introduce Col. Bannon.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Information Organization Supplies

Sean suggests each of us collect information and make folders or binders where we keep everything from our term on ACIR. That way if the website goes down or people leave, then it can be passed on to the next person who takes over that seat. An idea to elect a historian will be talked about at a later date after some of our events are completed. This person would keep photos and a synopsis of each event for historic purposes. Sean will send an email to Joyce requesting binders for each commission member. Many of the older members received one when they joined the commission.

Robin moved to accept the commission appointment of Bob Kelley and the reappointment of Cyndi Baker. It was seconded by Kay Silk. The motion passed. Sean will email Joyce Thares to inform her of our recommendation so that she can get it on the City Commission meeting agenda.

Anders moved to authorize Janet to spend up to \$20 on clipart for the same or similar logo that we already have but minus the "recycling" portion. Pam seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment - no public comment.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Janet McLeod