

# MINUTES

## Advisory Commission on International Relationships

Meeting date: July 24, 2012

Members present: Natalia Hager, Janet McLeod, Kay Silk, Sean Johnson, Christina Barsky, Bob Kelly, Pam Haugen, Cyndi Baker, Paul Gallardo

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. The Civic Center was locked, so we met outside on the south lawn.

### *MINUTES*

The minutes of the June meeting will be presented at the August meeting.

### *FINANCIAL REPORT*

Natalia reported we have a total of \$11,353.09 in the account.

### *OLD BUSINESS*

Open World Hosting - Sean reported that after expenses we deposited nearly \$3,000. We had extra expenses this year. Because of Open World, we have more operating money than similar groups in Montana even though the City doesn't pay for us. Some other groups around the state are sponsored by their respective cities. NOTE: No one has heard from the Tajiks since their visit in May.

Sean gave an update from a meeting with MSIV Convention of Helena - funded by the City of Helena. It was held at the Red Lion Hotel, a fully staffed banquet facility with two to three presentation rooms being used simultaneously. Another sponsor was Murdock's. Sean was able to hear Mark Johnson and reported it was a great experience for \$45 for each for the two days. He feels it is something we should be involved in next year and plan on going down as a group to interact with people who have the same mindset and goals as ours. About 40 people attended, some from other cities, which was not as well attended as they had hoped. The majority were self-employed citizens who want to be involved - retirees, doctors, etc.

Educational opportunities - Sean feels after attending the MCIV Convention that we should be more involved in education in Great Falls. Ideas discussed included a geography bee or a model UN. As we get closer to this next semester, we should look at linking up with schools - likely the high schools. We are all to think of a way to bring something to the schools. We are impacting the global community but need to try and get a grass roots impact right here in Great Falls. No specific tasks were handed out - just to think of ways to connect with the age groups. Mark Johnson has something to do with similar efforts in Missoula where students attend a national event. The exchange student pizza party was discussed along with the idea of an ethnic banquet for the schools featuring different food stations. We agreed that we need to tap into the language teachers and also bridge the communication gap between the hosting organizations

Christina Barsky moved to hold the pizza party again this year, seconded by Cyndi, and the motion carried. Bob will find out the date for Homecoming at GFHS; Janet will find out the date

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for Homecoming at CMR; Kay will work on finding a location. A preliminary date is September 19th. Sean will be out the first few weeks of September.

We discussed again the need for a continuity file and obtaining notebooks from the City. A suggestion was made for the leader of each effort (example the pizza party) to turn in a report after the event with details and contacts which would be kept in a folder.

Business cards are still needed and a logo. Ideas were discussed, specifically placing the Montana state symbol somewhere on the logo. Questions included the cost of implementing a new logo on existing materials (we would need new nametags). Price will be a factor, but Sean will explore having a logo designed and bring in a rough sketch. It was suggested we should bid it out if we have to pay for the logo.

### *NEW BUSINESS*

We discussed inviting the leader of MSIV to address our group.

We will look into putting together some fun videos and high energy activities for the exchange student pizza party. If we start now we could probably get some donations for the pizza. There were about 40 students at last year's fall party.

Our goal is to create a more diversified, educated, and understanding youth culture in Great Falls. Natalia will contact Ron to see if there is anything they're doing that we could do. Cyndi is checking into a geography bee.

Kay received a letter from Tiffani Harris, Congressional Relations Officer for Open World, and Tiffani gave an update about the future of Open World's funding in the legislation. Kay will stay in contact with Tiffani, as she may be a good resource later.

### *PUBLIC COMMENT*

No public comment

### *MEETING ADJOURNED - 7:53 PM*

The next meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet McLeod, Secretary