

February 26, 2013

MINUTES
Advisory Commission on International Relationships

Members present: Carol Lindseth, Janet McLeod, Cyndi Baker, Paul Gallardo, Kay Silk
Guests present: Charity Alonso, Dean Koffler, Robin Baker

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM with a quorum present.

MINUTES - Janet read the minutes of the previous meeting. A revision was made to the dates of the Open World Hosting to June 19-29, 2013. The corrected minutes were accepted by majority vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Natalia was not in attendance, so no report was given.

OLD BUSINESS

SISTER CITIES

Robin Baker attended the meeting to suggest we move on the Sister City idea and reach out to others in the community who have been involved in the past. We reviewed the Sister Cities purpose/vision statement, its beginnings, and how it benefits communities. We fit under the local level opportunity - \$50 a year (nonvoting membership).

Robin suggests we find out other Montana cities that are active in Sister Cities. We need to be interested in the commonalities of potential sister cities, as the goal is to have a reciprocal relationship that can open up opportunities for the participating cities. The specifics of a relationship were discussed, such as partnering with other groups in Great Falls to open up opportunities. It was clarified that we can be a sister city with more than one city (which is a recent change). Robin offered to volunteer as the liaison and will fill out the application form. Kay will serve as an assistant to Robin.

Harold is coming to Great Falls for the Icebreaker April 28th, a Sunday. Robin will contact Harold and find out if he is available to meet the Commission and maybe have dinner at Rikki's. Robin will not be available to participate on the 27th but will set it up.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - This was taken care of at the January meeting.

OPEN WORLD HOSTING JUNE 19-29- An update will be given at the next meeting when Bob is available. We reviewed the idea sheet from last meeting and clarified some of the items. The previous agricultural hosting was excellent, but depending on

the type of delegation (whether livestock or farming), a few activities will need to be changed.

MCIV CONVENTION - Sandy is out of town and unavailable to provide an update. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: ACADEMIC WORLD QUEST

We covered the basics of this "academic bowl" and discussed the need to start promoting it early in the fall with teachers. For next meeting, everyone is asked to research the online information on the website: montanaworldaffairs.org. We will need to write letters to the schools or in some way garner interest. Cyndi agreed to work on it to get the ball rolling. We also want our name on the event since we will sponsor the teams. It was clarified that this is Mark Johnson's brainchild. He also has a speaker program from which we may be able to net more speakers for local events.

MARK JOHNSON - FEB 28 - this event is Thursday. Paul, Janet, Kay, Cyndi, and Robin will be there. (Paul and Bob need a name tag; Janet will contact Trophies Express 1305 9th Ave S; 761-6064.) We will cover Mark's dinner, lodging, and travel expenses; and Sandy has already instructed him to submit his expenses to her. the plan is for Mark to contact Cyndi when he arrives in Great Falls. Janet and Cyndi will host him before or after the meeting as needed. Cyndi will get the brochures and other materials to set up a table of information. She will also give a brief introduction and introduce the commission members present. Robin will contact and invite Art to videotape again, and Janet will look into uploading the video on YouTube and posting the link on our Facebook page (and hopefully on the City page).

Robin reports that Friendship Force has been awarded a hosting from Russia in April with an emphasis on educators and administrators of visually impaired kids. Robin will invite us to participate in their hosting and has offered to help in planning our hosting.

WEBSITE - Everyone is encouraged to "like" our Facebook page and invite all their Facebook friends to like our page.

LIBRARY SCHEDULE - We continue to look for potential speakers for special events.

Commission members - Janet will send out everyone's term expirations, and we will communicate to the City the names of those members who wish to remain for a second term.

Meeting adjourned 8:29 PM. The next meeting will be March 26, 2013 at the Civic Center Rainbow Room.

