

MINUTES

April 23, 2013

Advisory Commission on International Relationships

Members present: Carol Lindseth, Janet McLeod, Kay Silk, Dean Koffler, Bob Kelly, Sandy Erickson, Cyndi Baker. Guest: Charity Alonso

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM with a quorum present. We took a minute to introduce ourselves.

MINUTES: Kay motioned to approve the March 2013 minutes, Dean seconded, the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: With the departure of Natalia Hager, we need a new treasurer. Kay Silk will fill that position and reports we have \$10,912.52 in the account. She produced receipts for \$223.14 for the mileage and food for Mark Johnson. Cyndi has one receipt to submit for Mark Johnson (dinner), as does Sandy (\$102.65 hotel). Bob moved that the board pay these bills, Kay seconded, and the motion carried. Kay will submit the expenses according to the City procedures.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board membership: We welcomed two new members to ACIR: Sandy Erickson rejoins the board after a few years' hiatus, and Dean Hall comes on for the first time. Charity Alonso, who was present at the meeting, has applied for membership in ACIR and is awaiting approval. As a board, we recommend the applicants before they go to the commissioners, and Carol reminded us of the importance of properly vetting newcomers, making sure they understand the importance of full participation and the expectations placed on them. We agreed the procedure should include reviewing applications and asking applicants to attend a couple of meetings before they are recommended. In addition, Carol mentioned she is ready to yield the chairmanship to someone else; however, there is no one on the board able to fill the position at this time due to overcommitment and other responsibilities. It was agreed that Carol and Cyndi will Co-chair, with Kay acting as Treasurer and Janet continuing as Secretary. Sandy moved to accept the slate of officers as presented; Cyndi seconded, and the motion carried.

Hosting:

Sandy and Bob handed out copies of the 3rd revision of the hosting plan for our upcoming Open World Delegation arriving June 21st. Details discussed include:

- Friendship Force is hosting a group at the same time, and Robin Baker has suggested that the two groups meet up during the week. The best time to get with Friendship Force might be Wednesday at the public reception, which would underscore our attendance. Kay will contact Robin to find out who is running the Friendship Force hosting to find out.
- The Lewis & Clark Festival is also going on at the same time.
- Bob reports that Open World may have a one day change to the dates, perhaps arriving on the 22nd instead. Bob and Sandy reviewed changes to the itinerary.
- Sunday brunch at the country club is again being donated by Davidson Cos., per Janet.
- Bob has two people who can come and talk to the delegation about volunteerism: Dave Snuggs of Neighbors in Need, and someone from the food bank. Dave is available Wednesday. Thursday, Darrell Stevenson may be available but could be in Russia that week. He raises cattle and sells them to Russia and all over the "Stans."
- A Friday morning job-shadow day is being considered. A delegate can be partnered one on one for the morning and then go to lunch. Even though there isn't an interpreter, we can invite some of the Russians who live here to volunteer as interpreters, but even so it could be a valuable experience.
- Still waiting for confirmation about Governor's office visit. The date could change at this point.

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- Janet is still working on home hosts - we need to have host homes turned in before June 3rd.. Lewis Zanto, owner of PMI Insurance, believes he may have several Ag clients interested in hosting. After hearing back from Lewis, Janet will call others on her list and report back ASAP. Bob Kelly can host two of the same gender (prefers one). Members are asked to submit names for other possible hosts -- call or text Janet at 452-5484.
- We should all recruit individuals who can sponsor an meal for the group.
- ACIR availability for hosting: Kay will be gone on the 24th; Sandy will be gone the 28-29th. Charity only available on the 21st. Janet can help evenings and weekends.
- Budget per Sandy is \$7,825 - goal is to keep about \$3,000 for ACIR which looks possible.
- Cyndi will check with Jaker's and give a price for a couple of entrees for the appreciation dinner.
- Gifts: Dean will look into making a calendar of photos using scenes from Great Falls - or come up with another gift involving photos. Janet will send photos she has taken to Carol and Dean. Poster generators are at Sam's and Staples or online.
- Delegate profiles will not arrive for a few more weeks. We still don't know names or genders as yet. Confidential summaries will be available at that time for host families.
- World Service has a lot of information online with checklists of how to plan a hosting for whoever leads the effort next time.

NEW BUSINESS

New speaker suggestions. Mark Johnson is traveling extensively but Sandy will email him and ask his availability to return this fall.

World Quest - This could be a new activity for our involvement and was again suggested by Sandy. We have discussed the idea before. There is not a team in Great Falls; we should approach teachers now and locate teachers in high schools or invite Foothills and the Catholic high school. Smaller schools would be more likely to get involved: Geraldine, etc. The winning team goes to Washington, and the cost is \$58 per team. For more information, the website is Montana World Affairs Council. Sandy, Charity, and Kay volunteered to form a task force and follow up.

Ron Luckenbill, Helena... Sandy and Lynn will follow up and report at our next meeting.

Historian opportunity - ACIR needs a central location to keep track of things. We have a large box filled with pamphlets, binders, which Cyndi will pass to Janet. We need new brochures, name tags, and thank you notes w/the new logo. For binders, we can purchase and print them and insert the by-Laws, list of commissioners and their term limits, our mission statement, and task lists. Cyndi moved to allow Janet to purchase needed materials for 9 binders; seconded by Sandy; motion carried.

Logo - the votes for the new design was unanimous - just add "Great Falls, Montana, USA"

Naturalized Citizens (Paul) - Dean reported to the group on behalf of Paul that John Morrison is the new judge, and Paul is waiting to hear back from him about our involvement.

Sister Cities - the Icebreaker pizza party is this Saturday night. Robin sent out a request to all of us to visit with Harold this weekend and no one responded. Sister Cities is important, because it introduced us to Open World. We need to follow up with Robin on the progress of our Sister City membership.

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

ADJOURNMENT - 8:17 PM

NEXT MEETING: May 28, 2012 at 7:00 PM – Civic Center

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Respectfully submitted,
Janet McLeod, Secretary