

Draft ACIR Meeting Action Minutes 2-23-16

Time & Place of Meeting: Rainbow Room of Great Falls Civic Center 7:00 pm

Members Present: Liz Guidara, Kay Silk, Kathy Craig, Charity Alonso Jacobson, and Susan Effertz

Financial Update: As of 2/1/16, treasury balance is same as last month: \$15,784.51.

January Meeting Minutes: Draft of minutes of January 26, 2016, was modified to reflect that the minutes of the December 15, 2015 meeting were approved and adopted at the January meeting. Then the January 26, 2016 minutes were reviewed, modified, and adopted by vote of all present.

Old Business:

International Speaker Series has continued at the new venue, Celtic Cowboy upstairs meeting room, 4:30-6:00 the first Saturday of each month. Availability of a speaker amp system was discussed and need for slide projector and screen for some speakers.

Speaker lineup:

March 5, 2016 speaker still undecided; if suitable speaker is not identified, the March speaker event will be canceled.

April 2, 2016 speaker from Ghana may be available.

May 7, 2016 Paivi Hoikkala from Finland

June 4, 2016—No speaker event; Open World program will be underway at that time.

International Festival planning update

Plans continue to be explored and developed, with attention to compliance with pertinent laws and local regulations.

Date(s) of event(s) still uncertain.

Hosting Update—Open World delegation from Russia is scheduled to arrive June 4 and depart on June 12, 2016. Theme of this study exchange is “Russia: Environment—Forest Management and Fire Protection.”

Liz Guidara is working on the schedule and on specifics, most immediate of which are securing the services of a translator and reserving a 10-12-seat van for the delegation’s travel within Montana. Charity Jacobson will address home hostings for the delegates. Kay Silk helped sketch out a preliminary day-by-day plan for the 8-day tour.

Through brainstorming within the Committee, a plethora of ideas came to discussion. Cathy Craig has contacts within the fire prevention and fire-fighting community. Local and regional entities that make up the fire-fighting network include our Native Indian firefighting brigades, hotshots and smoke jumpers and privately contracted fire fighters, volunteer fire departments, military and full-time civilian professional firefighters with ongoing training emphasis and emergency medical capabilities, and ancillary services such as showers and food for active fire fighters.

The group identified experts and contact persons for these topics as well: timber management and forest restoration, wildlife protection and rehabilitation, natural resources conservation services with stream bank restoration, environmental education,

and aspects of agriculture science. The group agreed the need for intense planning will require a soon meeting for further collaboration, likely by mid-March.

New Business:

ACIR committee membership was reviewed. Kay Silk, current treasurer, will be leaving the Committee after two consecutive 3-year terms. Kathryn Kruithoff and Charity Alonso Jacobson are each willing to serve a second term. Sandra Erickson's intentions regarding remaining on the Committee will be queried.

Potential recruits to the committee were suggested.

Public Comment: No comment received.

Meeting Adjourned: Time of adjournment was 8:17 pm.

Documentation: Susan J. Effertz respectfully submits these minutes.