

## **ACIR Meeting Action Minutes 5-24-16**

**Time & Place of Meeting:** Rainbow Room of Great Falls Civic Center 7:00 pm. Vice-chairperson Liz Guidara called the meeting to order and conducted the meeting.

**Members Present:** Liz Guidara, Michael Kraft, Kathy Craig, Sandra Erickson, Camile Reovan, and Susan Effertz   **Members Absent:** Kay Silk and Kathryn Kruithoff

**Meeting Minutes for April 2016:** The members considered the draft minutes. Charity Jacobson's name was removed from "absent" list because of report that she is longer on ACIR. With that modification, all members present voted to adopt the minutes for April 2016.

**Financial Update:** Liz reported that \$250 was spent for "backpacks" for the delegates and facilitator of the Open World program ACIR is hosting June 4 through June 12.

### **Old Business:**

Liz updated the group regarding the upcoming Open World Program. The topic of study for the week is Accountable Governance: Forest Management/Fire Protection. Among the five delegates and one facilitator from Russia there are four representatives of Greenpeace and a specialist in environmental protection from St. Petersburg. Open World will provide a designated translator coming from Des Moines; a local translator will provide language services June 4 and June 11.

Liz Guidara distributed the final schedule for the week. Duties of host families were clarified. Someone from ACIR will reportedly be designated to accompany the delegates throughout the daytime educational, travel, and cultural exchange events. The delegates will make a presentation at a public forum at Great Falls Library Thursday, June 9, at 7:00 pm. The Library's monthly bulletin described the Open World delegation and its mission and invited public attendance at this meeting.

**International Speaker Series** at the Celtic Cowboy from 3-5 pm on the first Saturday of each month is on hold for now. Information was available by Facebook about the May 7 talk by Patrizia Boldori from Italy.

There was discussion about the fact that the ACIR website and the Great Falls Tribune and Facebook all seemed to lack information about the event planned for May 7.

**New Business:** Kerry Callahan Bronson presented information about plans to bring a 24-member choir group from Cuba to participate in the International Choral Festival in Missoula July 13-16, 2016. Participating choirs come from countries all over the world. The group is called Cantores de Cienfuegos. Funds are needed for the group members' round-trip travel expenses from Cuba.

Our group discussed this opportunity to assist this elegant Cuban choral group to perform in Great Falls before the festival begins in Missoula. There was consensus that this activity is appropriate for the mission of ACIR. The group discussed various ways of advocating for this cause in Great Falls.

Sandra Erickson moved that ACIR provide \$500 for this effort, with the clear contingency that the group actually does come to Great Falls and performs here, and that we will offer logistical help as well. The motion was amended to provide \$1000 on the same basis, i.e., the stipulation that the group actually performs in Great Falls before they go on to the festival in Missoula. A motion to this effect was seconded by Susan Effertz and was passed by unanimous vote of all members present.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Meeting Adjourned:** A motion to adjourn was considered and passed by unanimous vote, and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

**Documentation:** Susan J. Effertz respectfully submits these minutes.