

## **ACIR Meeting Action Minutes 4-26-16**

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

**Members Present:** Kay Silk, Kathryn Kruithoff, Michael Kraft, and Susan Effertz  
**Absent:** Sandra Erickson, Liz Guidara, Camile Reovan, and Kathy Craig.  
Per report of Kathryn Kruithoff, Charity Jacobson is no longer on the Committee.

**Meeting Minutes for February and March 2016:** The members considered the draft minutes. All members present voted to adopt the minutes for both months without modification.

**Financial Update:** “No change.”

### **Old Business:**

**International Speaker Series** has continued at the new venue, Celtic Cowboy. The time has been changed to 3-5 pm on the first Saturday of each month.

#### **Speaker lineup:**

May 7, 2016 speaker will a woman who grew up in England.

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

**Hosting Update**—The schedule has been submitted for the Open World delegation June 4-12, 2016, from Russia. Michael reported he has information on the individual delegates—specifically their names, career positions in Russia, and their cities of residence in Russia, also the name of an interpreter who will fly in for this role. Five host families have been identified. The City Commission will schedule a proclamation for the Russian delegation as one of the delegation’s events. Kathryn Kruithoff will be away during the time of the program but Liz will be back.

On April 19 the City Commission honored ACIR for its activities promoting appreciation of diversity in our community and interactions with international citizens via such programs as Open World.

### **New Business:**

**ACIR Membership/Applications:** Kathryn reported that the applications of Michael Kraft and Camile Reovan have been approved, and both are now members of ACIR. Another candidate named Joseph Gagnon is invited to participate in activities prior to the vote on ACIR membership. Kay Silk will stay on.

### **Sister Cities Report by Kay Silk:**

Kay has been in interaction with Harold Pereverseff of Lethbridge, Alberta, and his wife Cheryl, who were in Great Falls for the Icebreaker April 24. According to the Lethbridge Twinning Society, Great Falls is one of four cities twinned with Lethbridge. Great Falls members of ACIR are invited to participate with representatives of Lethbridge and of its other sister cities in Lethbridge May 24-25. Canadian funding might be available to defray expenses of Great Falls visitors for the event.

Areas of common interest and collaboration are being entertained. One possibility discussed is that the Upper Missouri River Heritage Area Planning Corporation could

collaborate with Canada in common goals. Larry Stimac, a guest at today's meeting, expressed enthusiasm for Canadian tourism in Great Falls as a destination and as the gateway to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks.

**A motion** was made by Michael Kraft and seconded by Sue Effertz to send two ACIR members to the planned events in Lethbridge May 24-25. The motion passed unanimously by vote of all members present.

**A motion** was then made by Michael Kraft and seconded by Kay Silk for ACIR to pay for hotel and mileage for the two members if the Lethbridge Twinning Society does not offer financial support for the visit. That motion was passed by unanimous vote of all members present.

**Public Comment:**

Larry Stimac, a country western dancer, explained that he recently attending the Calgary Dance Stampede, a country western dancing event in Calgary. Mr. Stimac is interested in promoting dance in Great Falls and creating a commercial venue for this. He expects Canadian tourism to be one of the factors in success of this venture.

**Meeting Adjourned:** A motion to adjourn was considered and passed by unanimous vote, and the meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

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