

ACIR Meeting Minutes 9-27-16

Time & Place of meeting: Rainbow Room of Great Falls Civic Center 7:30 to 8:05 pm.

Members present: Kay Silk, Sandra Erickson, Kathy Craig, & Susan Effertz; quorum was met.

Members whose absence was announced ahead of the meeting: Michael Kraft

Recent resignation from ACIR: Liz Guidara (resignation expressed verbally to Kathryn Kruithoff)

Minutes of July meeting (August no meeting possible, absent a quorum):

Minutes for the meeting of 7/26/16 were available for review. Kay had recommended a change in the wording to clarify payment for the backpacks for the Open World visitors. With this change made, the minutes were moved, seconded, and approved for acceptance.

Financial Update:

Kay brought the treasury update issued by the City. Our account currently has \$17,241.78. An increase of \$27 U.S. is anticipated when a currency exchange error is corrected.

Old Business:

1) The International Speaker Series:

The committee members discussed the International Speaker Series but were unclear on what speakers, if any, have been commissioned for this season. The most recent of these cultural talks have been held on the first Saturday of each month at the Celtic Cowboy downstairs in an informal setting with time adjusted forward to 3-5 pm. Commission members commented about the goal of improving attendance, which depends on good publicity and appeal of the venue.

Kathryn Kruithoff, who has been the principal driver of this program, was not able to be present for this meeting. The plan is to discuss with Kathryn, work with her contacts at GFC-MSU, and consider whether to continue the talks at the same location or another meeting venue, possibly at the college.

2) Naturalization Ceremony:

Kay reported on the latest naturalization ceremony, on August 18, 2016, in which ACIR participated. There were 24 individuals from 12 countries who became U.S. citizens. They came from Canada, Trinidad, Taiwan, China, Brazil, Philippines, Mexico, Jamaica, Myanmar, Germany, Ecuador, and Poland.

The next ceremony is scheduled for November 17. The commission members concurred that we do want to continue to participate in these ceremonies.

3) Miscellaneous topics:

Sister City Lethbridge: Kay's visit to Great Falls' sister city Lethbridge, Alberta, 5/24/16 was successful in fostering good relations with Lethbridge and with Culver City, California, another sister city of Lethbridge. Kay provided a photo of herself documenting her brief reign as the ceremonial mayor of Lethbridge. Harold Pereverseff, president of the Lethbridge Twinning Society, sent a formal letter to Great Falls Mayor Bob Kelly acknowledging these events.

Harold Pereverseff planned to lead a contingency of visitors to Great Falls in mid-August, but he canceled that plan.

Cantores de Cienfuegos: The Missoula Community Foundation sent a letter acknowledging the donation of \$1000 from Great Falls, through ACIR, to help bring the Cuban choir called Cantores de Cienfuegos to perform in Great Falls and to participate in the International Choral Festival in Missoula in July.

Welcome literature: Kay showed the Committee the **folder of welcome literature** ACIR presented to the members of the Open World delegation of firefighters from Russia in June and to the members of the Cuban choir in July.

International Food Festival: The Committee has discussed such a program over an extended time. The members today expressed only low interest in actively pursuing such a community event in the near future.

New Business:

1) Great Falls Board & Commission Handbook: Each member of the committee was asked to sign acknowledgement of receiving a copy of the latest version of the handbook, issued on August 1, 2016.

2) Sister City Lethbridge: Kay Silk was encouraged to explore a visit of representatives of the Lethbridge Twinning Society to Great Falls coincident with the **Bird Festival** to be held in Great Falls June 9-11, 2017.

3) Open World: Sandra Erickson has been in contact with principals of Open World regarding whether we interested in hosting an Open World delegation again soon.

A motion to request that Sandra answer this letter affirmatively was made by Kathy Craig, seconded by Kay Silk, and voted yes by the Committee.

Sandra will also seek the results of the debriefing of the 2016 Open World participants, which information will be needed by planners of future Open World events.

4) December ACIR meeting: The Committee is considering changing the date of the December 2016 meeting from December 27th to December 20th.

5) Recommended meeting agenda for October 25, 2016 will include:

Ongoing goal setting for ACIR activities

Development of a slate of ACIR officers, to be voted on in due course, in view of loss of some committee members and in anticipation of new members of committee in response to Great Falls Tribune article 9/17/16 announcing several openings on the Committee.

Discussion on speakerphone with Kathryn Kruithoff at end of this meeting revealed that Kathryn may “need to step away from the chairperson position” because of other demands.

Public Comment: None.

Meeting Adjourned: At 8:05 pm a motion to adjourn was put by Kathy, seconded by Kay, and voted affirmatively by all.