

Draft ACIR Meeting Minutes 10-25-16

Time & Place of meeting: Rainbow Room of Great Falls Civic Center 7:02 to 7:46 pm.

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

Recent resignation from ACIR:

Susan Effertz, currently acting as secretary, is resigning from the committee.

Kathryn Kruithoff remains as President but has expressed she has relentless time demands preventing her full participation at the current time.

Minutes of September meeting

Minutes for the meeting of 9/27/16 were available for review. Kay offered a correction on the dates of the upcoming Bird Festival mentioned in New Business. Kathy Craig moved to accept the minutes, Kay Silk seconded, all voted affirmative to accept the September minutes, and the date correction was effected.

Financial Update:

Kay reported there is no change in the account balance since last month. The matter of possible discrepancy due to currency exchange was resolved and the account total remains \$17,241.78.

Old Business:

1) The International Speaker Series:

Discussion reveals the speaker series remains on hold. Items for ongoing review with regard to the speaker series are these:

Venue—consider MSU-GTF, University of Great Falls, return to Public Library with 6 pm exit, continue at Celtic Cowboy, other

Interest—speakers from University of Great Falls through Kathryn Kruithoff's contacts, other community members

Advertising—attracting a respectful audience size requires successful notice to public of the speaker events

2) Naturalization Ceremonies:

The next naturalization ceremony is expected to be November 17, 2016.

The commission members concurred that we do want to continue to participate in these ceremonies.

3) Sister City Lethbridge:

Kay has invited Harold Pereverseff, president of the Lethbridge Twinning Society, to visit at the time of the Bird Festival set for June 9-11, 2017 in Great Falls.

4) Open World program possibilities:

Sandra Erickson did notify Deb Lutjen at Open World that we will gladly host an Open World delegation in 2017. Two possible delegations are these:

A) **Ukrainian delegation** starting September 21, 2017, entitled Civil Rule of Law/Anti-Corruption Practices/E-Governance & Transparency

B) **Armenian delegation** starting October 25, 2017, entitled Civil Rights Themes of Accountability & Ethics in Government—E-Freedom of Information

For each of these potential delegations, Sandra put together and submitted a Host Organization Profile Form before the October 7, 2016 deadline.

Sandra has attempted to get a copy of the participant evaluations from the Russian fire-fighting delegation we hosted this June. She is planning to pursue this information further, likely by requesting the report from Open World.

An illustration of ongoing relationships with former Open World delegates is Sandra Erickson and Lynn Baker's sponsorship of a Tajik national from five years ago and his family, who hope to emigrate to the U.S. next year.

New Business:

1) **Development of a Platform of goals and projects for 2017 and beyond—**

Plans to be developed will include the four topics listed above under "Old Business."

2) **Meeting Date Change November and December:**

Because of seasonal travel and time constraints, the committee agreed on a plan to vacate both previously-stated dates for ACIR meetings in November and December 2016. A motion was advanced, seconded, and carried to hold a **single meeting for both months, on Tuesday, December 13, 2016.**

Kay will make sure this change is conveyed to Owen, who schedules the meeting room.

Kay will also request to continue our standard meeting dates and times and location for all of 2017—i.e., fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm in Rainbow Room of Great Falls Civic Center.

3) **ACIR needs more participating committee members.**

Quorum: Improved communication with current members is anticipated, to ensure the members do show up for meetings, since a quorum is needed to conduct business.

The committee acknowledged a **need for publicity within the community** to emphasize ACIR's current and future activities. One plan is for Sandra to write a letter to the editor in the Tribune to educate about ACIR and its work.

Members discussed plans to recruit new members by **bringing a friend** to the next meeting for introduction and proselytization.

Sandra voiced a plan to **contact former ACIR members** in hope of recruiting some of these individuals to return to service in ACIR.

4) **Slate of officers for ACIR**

A slate of 2017 officers for ACIR will be generated at the December 13, 2016, meeting

Public Comment: None.

Meeting Adjourned: At 7:46 pm, the day's business having been concluded, a motion to adjourn was offered, seconded, and unanimously approved.