

HELENA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
5:15 p.m. - October 17, 2006
City-County Building
Helena, MT

HIAC members attending were: Pat Murdo, Chair; Alexis Rincon, Will Garvin, Kay Hansen and Carla Wambach. Associate members attending were Tom Stearns, representing Kumamoto Plaza and Marshall Gingery, representing the Helena Citizens Council. Guests were Matt Kuntz, prospective HIAC member, and Sheena Wilson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Gov. Brian Schweitzer.

Pat Murdo called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

The September minutes were approved.

--Carla Wambach moved and Kay Hansen seconded a motion to recommend Matt Kuntz to the Helena City Commission for consideration as a new HIAC member. The HIAC agreed unanimously.

-- An edited version of the new HIAC brochure was distributed and will be finalized at the November meeting.

-- Pat will meet with Mayor Jim Smith Oct. 25 or 26 to discuss what the City wants to do with the Memorandum of Understanding prepared by Bill MacBride.

-- Mark Bisom said he will be accompanying World Trade Center import/export folks to Alberta Canada on Dec. 11.

--Pat Murdo, HIAC chair, will give the annual report to the City Commission December 4. All HIAC members are urged to attend starting at 6:00 p.m. in the city-county meeting room.

--Will, Carla, Kay and Alan Peura, City Commissioner, attended the luncheon for a group of Russians studying the environment and government. The same day Pat attended a meeting with four Algerians interested in communication and politics. Speaking at that meeting was Chuck Denowh, head of the Montana Republican Party, and Bob Ream, former chairman of the Democratic Party.

--Mark Bison said the Philippine counsel will be in Helena Nov. 3 to contact Helena's Philippine population. Teresa Bridwell is our contact for this trip.

--Tom Stearns reported plans are underway to celebrate Kumamoto Plaza's 25th anniversary celebration around July 22, 2007.

--Tentative plans for the HIAC Christmas meeting are to hold it at Bill MacBride's office conference room on Dec. 19.

--Stephen Maly is filming a documentary in Ghana.

--Sheena Wilson reported on the state's plans to support a HIAC co-sponsored photography exhibit "Sudan the Land and the People." Portions of the exhibit will be hung in the Capital law library and Carroll College. She said the state will help coordinate plans for the exhibit with the Meridian International Center in Washington D.C.

The exhibit will arrive in Helena June 4 and will be on display approximately six weeks. Then it is to be shipped to Spokane on July 22.

Sheena said volunteers will be needed to help with signs, promotion and receptions. Sudan author and photographer, Michael Freeman, is hoping to attend the opening. Cost for shipping and other needs will be \$7,500 which will be contributed by state, private and non-profit groups.

--Pat distributed a sample HIAC business card. She will bring cards for all HIAC members to the November meeting.

Adjourned at 7:05 p.m.