

**Helena International Affairs Council
1/16/07 Minutes
(prepared by Elaine Dahl)**

Welcome and Introductions

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE	AFFILIATES IN ATTENDANCE	GUESTS
Pat Murdo, Chair	Alex Rinçon	Kiyomichi Nagata (Kumamoto Plaza)	Laura Pflum (Governor's office)
Gabe Furshong	Josh DeWeese	Tom Stearns (Kumamoto Plaza)	Bill McBride (Rotary Intl)— voted to be affiliate at this meeting
Carla Wambach	Will Garvin, Vice- Chair		Sheldon Bartel (Gateway Econ Dev/MT Business Assistance Connection— MBAC)
Matt Kuntz			
Elaine Dahl, Sec.			
Kay Hansen			

Review agenda, approve minutes

Pat noted 3 sets of minutes

Gabe moved to approve in bulk, Carla seconded—APPROVED unanimously

Budget review

Pat said Debbie reported we have \$1,852.50 as of 1/12, which goes away June 30, so we need to do brochures soon and propose budget for the next fiscal year. Budget is usually \$2000.

Guests

Michelle Lewis—canceled (not actually invited yet)

Sheldon Bartel—reported on upcoming MBAC economic development conference to be held July 15-18 (with July 14 arrival recommended) at the Great Northern. Has \$4000 in sponsorship from Qwest and an accounting firm. He anticipates the conference will include 6 speakers with Q&A on subjects including econ development marketing, workforce development, site selection/ mapping/ GIS, and Center for Rocky Mountain West's observed trends, as well as 2 panels on workforce issues and public sector involvement in workforce development and training. He also anticipates offering industry tours. The kickoff is planned to take place at the Capitol, and the Governor may begin the conference, with Senator Baucus and US/Canada ambassadors as other possible speakers (among others). Upon questioning by Pat about what Sheldon would like from HIAC, he requested arranging for: (1) the mayor to write a welcoming letter that would be part of the packet given to conference attendees; (2) attendance by the mayor and committee members at the opening reception at which the mayor could officially welcome people; (3) an informal reception/hospitality suite at the

Great Northern involving Mayor Smith, with opportunity for attendees to ask him about various issues; (4) a financial contribution for the opening reception; and (5) volunteers to take attendees to Helena and other MT attractions/activities. Pat said she would ask Mayor Smith for a letter, solicit volunteers, and we would decide about a contribution amount later. Sheldon stated the website for MBAC is under construction, his current e-mail for next few days is Sheldon@gatewayedc.org, but will then change to Sheldon@mbac.biz.

Laura Pflum (Governor's office)

Laura stated that Lt. Gov. Bohlinger and Gov. Schweitzer want to develop a sister city relationship with Colima, MX, and Laura had contacted Pat to find out more about the process. Laura will meet with Bill (McBride) on this, and will talk to Kumamoto Plaza people and Mark Bisom from Dept of Commerce. Pat asked if there is a connection between Colima and Helena. Laura answered that Colima is geographically similar to MT (not snow), revenue similar, demographically similar. Pat noted existing and former sister city or sister state relationships, and stated we usually look at educational and cultural ties, as well as business. Bill discussed prior procedures, and stated knowing how we would be received is important—noting inquiries should be made in the local language. Bill commented on prior experience with Kyrgyzstan developing Farm in the Dell program there to fill gap left after USSR breakup.

Possible future guest speakers

Gabe suggested Ken Stucher as future speaker.

Pat said Jeff Van Tyne who just went to China, wants to make presentation to group (Powerpoint), and she would suggest to have him speak in March. Gabe said Jeff is a talented photographer. Carla volunteered to help in light of her experience with China, and Pat said she would forward Jeff's info to her.

Appointment of affiliates

Bill McBride (Rotary Intl)—Carla moved his appointment, Matt seconded. APPROVED unanimously.

New brochure/printing

Carla said she went to 3 places for bids (listed below), and noted Postnet is most economical of the 3 and she has dealt with them before.

Postnet—200/\$156 or 500/\$290

Allegra—200/\$246 or 500/\$395 or 1000/\$495

TNO—200/\$240 or 500/\$412.50

Tom suggested Action Print. Matt suggested Staples. Carla said she would check on those. Pat suggested we vote on the number of copies first, and then vote on which bid to accept. Gabe asked where the brochures are to be distributed, and various members responded that they will be distributed at the MBAC conference, around town (airport, library, City County building, Hist society), and at the Sudan/Darfur exhibit. Pat commented that we might need more than normal this year. Upon discussion, it was agreed that 500 was an appropriate number of copies, and Carla agreed to get more price estimates.

Upcoming events

February meeting

Kay and Matt said they waited until this month to work on the February 20 party. Kay discussed possible problems with going to Jade Garden (busy, Chinese New Year, Legislature, no separate room, etc.). She asked how many people were expected, and Pat said about 25. Tom and Kiyomichi volunteered the Kumamoto center as a place for the meeting, and the HIAC members agreed that would be a good venue. Pat said she had approached Mike Halligan about being the speaker, and he had tentatively agreed, but she would officially invite him by letter. The sequence of events will be 5:15 arrival, 5:30 food, 6:00 speaker, and a short meeting thereafter. It is anticipated that the charge will be around \$7 per person, assuming HIAC contributes \$300, but some members may pay \$10 to \$15 to cover guest food. Kay said she would approach Debbie about Mayor Smith's offer for the City to help cover some of the expenses. It is a public meeting which anyone can attend, but people will need to pay if they eat.

Inbound delegations

Pat said there are Hungarian Parliamentarians at Capitol, following Legislators Tom and Kiyomichi said they are expecting a visitor from Kumamoto, recruiting teachers for the Washington Institute of Language, and they may ask if anyone wants to go to lunch.

Outbound delegations

None

Cultural events

None

Sudan exhibit

Nothing new

Public comment

Bill noted Rotary International is pursuing Chingola School Project to finance school supplies through the Zambia Rotary Club, with a goal of outfitting 500 students with desks, equipment and basic supplies for a total of \$12,500. He also noted he had an article regarding KRG Jim Kearney program. He will offer a fuller presentation on Rotary International in a subsequent meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33.