



**Helena International Affairs Council
04/15/08 Minutes**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE	AFFILIATES IN ATTENDANCE	GUESTS
Jessica Peterson, Chair	Campbell Pryor		Stephen Maly, Montana Center for International Visitors
Will Garvin	Matt Kuntz		
Gabe Furshong			
Pat Murdo			
Alex Rincon			
Mark Annas Elaine Dahl			

Welcome and Introductions

Stephen Maly, former HIAC member, introduced to new HIAC members.

Review Agenda, Approve Minutes

Moved and seconded that the minutes from 3/18/08 Meeting are approved.

City Answers to HIAC's Questions

Jessica P. Matt K. and Pat Murdo will be meeting with the Mayor in late April to pose these questions and seek answers.

Jesse also met with Commissioner Alan Peura on March 21 and asked him some of the HIAC's questions from March's meeting. The answers are available to HIAC members as an electronic document and were also emailed in brief on April 4th, 2008 to the HIAC, Debbie Havens and Commissioner Peura.

**Stephen Maly, Montana Center for International Visitors (MCIV)
"The New Way Forward for MCIV"**

Based in Bozeman, funded by US Dept. of State; office space, other infrastructure provided by MSU. There are numerous CIV's around the country; MCIV "competes" with other CIV's for international delegations to come to their respective areas. As Chair of their Board, he is seeking input as to what direction MCIV will take. If groups are referred by the Library of Congress, they are fee based, which generates income vs. non fee-based monies from the US Dept. of State. Currently, there is only one paid employer, Doris Armstrong, the Executive Director.

He has thought of a TV show, which would be aired monthly; with the thinking that corporate sponsor monies would allow for program expansion. It would air on HCTV, to be aired throughout Montana. This show would focus on international visitors to Montana, and the connection between them and Montana.

Another idea is immigration, refugee and resettlement, and how MVIC would/could be involved. He has spoken to MT Dept. of Labor, and they are interested; particularly if it involves skilled laborers and workers. He sees such an effort would address the economic impact platform of HIAC. Beyond this, he sees there may be a possibility of HIAC joint venturing with MVIC in other areas.

HIAC's Next Initiative – Getting Started

-- Website

Alex Rincón update

Given security issues, working off a government server does not look feasible. He stated he may be able to identify an intern from Carroll. He suggested a local internet provider be used to host a web page. He feels \$10/hr. would be sufficient for an intern; it was noted, however, that a time-limited understanding with whomever performs this function would be critical.

Jessica asked for a vote on the website idea. It was moved and seconded to move forward with the website concept; it was unanimously approved. This motion does not obligate HIAC financially.

-- HCTV

It was moved and seconded to pay \$60/year to allow for HIAC to have a ½-1 hour quarterly time slot to raise the visibility of HIAC. Unanimously approved.

-- Diplomacy 2008

The Diplomatic Relations schedule for 2008 was agreed upon (this is the monthly schedule) during which various HIAC members would be "on call" to host international delegations to Helena.

-- Sub committees

Upcoming Events and Report on Past Events

Jessica stated there is an upcoming event at the Mediterranean Grill, with a delegation from Moldova is coming, next Wed., April 23. They are involved in TV management. Pat also commented on an upcoming meeting she will have with Atsushi Yamakoshi, representing Keidanren-USA. They hope to attend a meeting of the State Tribal Leaders.

Will G. stated he has commented by the Helena Brewers has contacted him about team members coming into town, and the need for host homes.

It was moved, seconded, approved to adjourn at 6:45.

Public Comment

No Public Comment