



**Helena International Affairs Council
12/16/08 Minutes
DRAFT**

Welcome and Introductions

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE	AFFILIATES IN ATTENDANCE	GUESTS
Gabe Furshong	Will Garvin		Julie Haehnel, Helena Citizen's Council
Jessica Peterson, Chair Mark Annas, Secretary			
Shahid Haque- Hausrath			
Doreen Kutufam	Campbell Pryor		
Ersun Ozer			

Welcome and Introductions:

Each member went around to introduce themselves, and also to describe what attracted to them to HIAC. Doreen, Ersun welcomed as members to HIAC. Doreen indicated she is currently on the Board of Directors for HCTV. Julie also welcomed. She is a VISTA Volunteer for the Citizen's Council, does a HCTV program for them, as well as a newsletter.

Review Agenda, Approve November Minutes: Jessica moved we approve, Shahid seconded, approved unanimously by the Council

Approval of HCTV Contract:

Gabe presented the draft contract. HCTV will assist with needed technical support. They will assist with the production of up to 6 one-half hour programs, including out-of-studio work. It detailed the duties of HCTV staff as well as HIAC members. The contract will allow for video production services, including editing. It would cost \$500 per program. Question was asked by Doreen and Julie what would training consist of. Gabe stated it would involve training on equipment, basic production, but would not involve editing. Julie also commented she has checked out equipment from HCTV which did not require training nor a financial transaction. Unknown how much the "participant's videography training" would cost; Gabe will check that out. We have training scheduled for Dec. 30, at 4pm for HIAC staff. Jesse asked Doreen and Ersun be forwarded the email thread regarding this training. She also requested Gabe email her information regarding cost of training, if we indeed need training, how many times each segment would be broadcast, and geographic reach in MT of each broadcast. Doreen stated there is basic knowledge of equipment used that even professionals sometimes forget. Training will be held at the HCTV studios located in back of Wheat Montana off N. Last Chance Gulch. Sense of why there is a cost relates to greater production efforts would go into the production of HIAC segments vs. other HCTV segments. Jesse also stated she would like to know how many times each segment would be broadcast, and to how many MT communities it would be broadcast. We will do an email vote of this draft contract ... look for it via email. Gabe stated he, Doreen and Mark will be meeting Jan. 5 to discuss the first episode.

Unveiling of Website Navigation Page:

Jesse handed out a print out of the "Home Page" of HIAC's site. She stated there would likely be a rotating background picture. She invited input. Doreen indicated pictures obviously not of Helena, should have some indication of what the picture is about or from where. Jesse thought also perhaps having a flag of the country be included in this background picture. Presently, this page includes the purpose and mission statement. Jesse would like to rework the page to identify our purpose, but in a more welcoming way. There is also a calendar on the right margin would highlight events being held in Helena with an international flavor. Jesse invited input. Shahid suggested whenever HIAC member's heard of anything, we could edit it from our home computers. There would also be a link on the left margin to the City of Helena calendar. Once it goes live, individual HIAC members will be able to edit from home, ie. Upload minutes. Jesse also encouraged us to consider what additional links we might wish to include. Currently, there are these links: Home, Who We Are (bios), Activities, Contact Us, Resources, FAQ's, Links, Search, Site Map, Calendar (for City of Helena). Ersun indicated some of the links could be educational in nature, giving information about specific cultures and countries; Shahid stated we could have a "bio" link to who currently is visiting; Ersun felt we could also identify who has been here in the past. Gabe encouraged assigning tasks that could be completed before it goes live, ie., doing a local profile on a local person or business that has an international flavor. Shahid said he would be willing to look at who or what could be the focus of such a highlight. He agreed to one profile, and also to develop the immigration link. Jesse wondered if a general link with current socio-economic information could also be identified. Additional input: Gabe advised against the navigation page being too "text heavy", Shahid suggested a footer, and Ersun suggested more pictures.

Ersun will do his bio; as will Doreen.

Ersun wondered aloud why people would go the website, why would they want to go on the site. Gabe offered some might go there to simply see what "stories" might be there. There also would be those interested in cultural, art aspects. Additionally, issues of immigration. Ersun suggested, given the many numbers who listen to MT Public Radio, if they could make mention of HIAC in their programming; this could be tied into an activity, or person in Helena. Shahid mentioned podcasts, YouTube as other avenues of heightening the visibility of HIAC. Jesse would like to launch the site by end of January, 2009.

2009 HIAC Goal Setting, Discussion of FY10 Budget:

What do we want 2009 to look like. Jesse stated we haven't had many "business" goals; with Ersun on the council, he may give good input. He wondered where HIAC would stand if a Russian artist was showing art in Seattle; if HIAC would want to attract such people to Helena. He also mentioned a musician performing in Bozeman, and what interest HIAC would be have. Gabe encouraged Ersun to bring more information about these events, and see how HIAC could be involved. Shahid has spoken with the Carol Carpenter, State Refugee Coordinator; she is responsible for funding issues. She stated there are large populations of Russian and Chinese. She was not aware of HIAC's existence, and would like to present at a future meeting. Mark spoke about several emails exchanged with the Montana Legal Services Association. He is hopeful he will meet with an attorney from this association. Shahid would like to be included on the email threads Mark is exchanging with this association. Jesse spoke with Denise Juneau's campaign manager. This person addressed the drop out rate of Native Americans in Helena equaling that of reservation towns and border towns. Jesse wondered if we could be more inclusive of this population by letting people know of their annual powwow. She suggested there could be links identifying demographic information of the Native population. Our efforts need to be inclusive. Jesse also suggested the vacant position on HIAC could perhaps be filled by one of two people who are associated with the Helena Indian Alliance. Members supported Jesse's reaching out to HIA. She also contacted Montana Business

Assistance Connections, Dan Anderson. He indicated there are many companies which import/export. Mr. Anderson felt there could be a great impact on MT given the flux in current world economic markets. He also suggested additional links could be to the Montana Tourism industry. Jesse also contacted The Archie Bray Foundation, and from that contact the issue of immigration was discussed. Further, she received a letter from Will's cousin, the US Ambassador to Canada, who identified numerous issues, to include border issues and immigration. Jesse is going to attend a meeting addressing growth policy in Helena. Jesse will try and put cost figures to the above ideas.

Presentation of “Your Turn” Intent/Purpose:

Jesse presented a “Purpose and Intent” statement, outlining this concept. Reviewed by those remaining in attendance (Shahid, Gabe, Mark, Jesse). Gabe suggested to not pin down the topics at this time. This statement, when edited, will be presented to the City Commission, so they are aware of our activities.

Past and Future event:

2009 Diplomacy Sign-up: Jesse presented the sign up, purpose of it, and then distributed to members for sign up. Doreen signed up for Feb. and Sept., Gabe signed up for March and April, Ersun for May and January, Shahid for June and August, Will for April and June, Mark for January and October, Jesse for (first and second choices respectively).

Shahid and Gabe described his introductions of Doreen and Shahid to the City Commission as part of HIAC's Annual Report to that body, as well as business “meet and greets” in which HIAC has been involved. They also stated Shahid may present an informational seminar on immigrant rights. Gabe will email HIAC members a recently passed resolution passed by the City vis a vis universal health care.

Public Comment:

Shahid stated there were many bills that will be presented to the upcoming legislature. Some of the legislation may include detention of those who local law enforcement feel have committed an immigration crime. Another piece of legislation would make it a felony for illegal immigrants to vote in state elections. Another would allow the Dept. of Justice to enter into agreements with ICE to enforce immigration laws. Most of the proposed legislation would curb rights of people in country without status. He stated there were approximately 30 pieces of proposed legislation. Shahid stated these ideas have surfaced as proposed legislation previously. Jesse suggested he email some of this proposed legislation to those who may have an interest.

Moved to adjourn by Jesse, seconded by Shahid. Adjourned at 7:36pm.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!