



**Helena International Affairs Council  
03/18/08 Minutes**

**Welcome and Introductions**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE	AFFILIATES IN ATTENDANCE	GUESTS
Jessica Peterson, Chair	Pat Murdo	Kizuku Matsunaga	Carla Wambach Kay Hanson
Matt Kuntz		Tom Stearns	
Gabe Furshong			
Mark Annas			
Alex Rincon			
Max Garvin Elaine Dahl Campbell Brown			

**Welcome and Introductions**

At 5:25 PM, Introductions made.

**Review Agenda, Approve Minutes**

Minutes to be approved next month. They are on a "troubled" disk, making them currently inaccessible.

**Discussion of Personal Interview Findings**

- Discussed the possibility of inviting guests from the media. Jessica stated the IR does put a notice in the paper each previous Friday.
- She had distributed (via email) copies of the results of her discussions with HIAC members as to directions HIAC could take.

**HIAC Mission and By-laws; Council member roles and responsibilities**

- Copies of the HIAC Mission Statement distributed and read by Jessica. Discussion ensued.
- Suggested communication be opened up with the City Commission to determine how "assistance" would be defined, referring to the language in the statement "...assist the city in the conduct of international affairs....."
- There was additional discussion as to how international delegations are bypassing other Montana cities, and coming to Helena.
- Language of the Mission Statement was discussed; is it limiting or not? Some members felt it was limiting in some respects, others felt it was open.
- The idea was introduced of having one Commission member with whom the Council could liason; and perhaps that could be Alan Peura.
- Also felt that the theme of education needs to be integrated into the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph.

- Could we develop a list of contacts (it seemed Pat Murdo had developed contacts which were helpful).
  - Having an active website....currently it is not being regularly updated, nor is there a mechanism in place to do so.
  - Where did the quote contained in the mission statement come from?
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- Discussion on By-Laws was introduced with the question of what is our role; is it advisory? Jessica will seek clarification on this from Mr. Peura. Is it HIAC's role to advise the Commission, the Mayor, both?
  - Was felt language could be added to reflect efforts to recruit Helena residents who were born abroad. Others felt we could do that without necessarily changing the By-Laws.
  - No motions made regarding the Mission Statement or By-Laws, though it was mentioned such procedures can take place via email.

### **Vision 2008 Planning.**

- The above minutes represent the "foundation" to the planning task before the Council.
- Who will be "host" for delegations which come; rotating it amongst the HIAC membership; two members take this on per month. Jessica motioned this be adopted, Will seconded, passed by voice vote.
- Jessica distributed "HIAC Council Member Ideas and Potential Initiatives" for member perusal in preparation for next Council Meeting.

### **Upcoming events and report on past events**

- Peter Kornbluh will present "From Pinochet to Bush: The Origins of The Human Rights Debate and Chile's Relevance For Today", Thursday, March 20, 2008, in the Wiegand Auditorium, Simperman Hall, Room 101/202 at 7pm. It is free and open to the public.
- The Helena Chamber of Commerce Hosts UN Ambassadors will air 3/19 at 3pm and 10:30pm; additionally on 3/23 at 6pm and 3/24 at 3pm.
- There will be an appreciation pot luck for Tom Stearns, on April 4 from 4:30pm on, at the Kumamota Plaza in downtown Helena.

### **Public Comment**

- The Council thanked Tom Stearns for his efforts and dedication to HIAC.
- Tom Stearns recognized Mr. Matsunaga's efforts to advance the sister city relationship.
- Mr. Matsunaga informed the Council of the new name for Kumamota Plaza, it will now be known as Kumamota, Japan Representative Office.

Jessica moved the meeting be adjourned, it was seconded and approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.