



**Helena International Affairs Council
05/20/08 Minutes**

Welcome and Introductions

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE	AFFILIATES IN ATTENDANCE	GUESTS
Mark Annas	Campbell Pryor		
Gabe Furshong			
Matt Kuntz			
Jessica Peterson			
Elaine Dahl			
Will Garvin Pat Murdo Alex Rincon			

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.

Review Agenda, Approve Minutes

Approved with amendments.

Meeting with Mayor Jim Smith and Debbie Havens

Matt, Pat and Jessica met with the Mayor. They each shared their views as to how this meeting went. Mayor Smith was positive about HIAC developing a website outside of the city government server. He was also positive about identifying a City Commissioner as an HIAC “advocate”. Also, his feedback was favorable regarding HIAC joining HCTV, and supports HIAC sponsoring educational forums.

HIAC’s New Website

Go ahead given to develop such a website. Questions posed: cost, content, links, and possible role of intern in it’s development. It was suggested HIAC members look at the current site (helenainternationalaffairsCouncil.com) as a way to begin forming ideas as to how the new site might look. Members to have feedback to Jessica by May 30, 2008. Jessica also suggested a planning session be part of our June meeting. Alex gave names of individuals who could intern and/or provide help with site design.

HCTV Membership and HIAC’s Television Appearances

HIAC is now a HCTV member. There is some latitude in scheduling time on this network. Various content ideas were discussed. Pat suggested having a contest for program theme music, with an international flavor. A subcommittee was appointed, chaired by Gabe, to develop a HCTV program proposal. This subcommittee will meet prior to the June meeting, and Gabe will report on progress. Pat and Elaine will work on the music concept, and also report back at the June meeting.

Helena Brewer's Welcome and our Roles

Will informed HIAC June 22 at 2pm there will be a welcoming at the ballpark for foreign players on the Helena Brewers roster. He will also arrange certificates to be presented to these players. Will also suggested we consider becoming an official booster of the Helena Brewers at an annual fee of \$15.

Upcoming Events and Report on Past Events

Matt congratulated on becoming a proud of his first child, a daughter.

Two foreign delegations have come to Helena in the past month, one from Moldavia, one from Iraq. Jessica and Will joined both for lunch. The Moldavians represented their TV industry, whereas the Iraqis were local political leaders interested in volunteerism.

Jessica is putting together a binder of business cards to include HIAC members (current, past) plus delegation visitors.

Alex inquired if anyone knew of families in Helena willing to be a host family for foreign students. He will email information to Jessica about this opportunity. He also asked how best to get this need out to the community; a letter to the Helena IR editor was suggested.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.