



**Helena International Affairs Council
12/15/09 Minutes**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE	AFFILIATES IN ATTENDANCE	GUESTS
Jessica Peterson, Chair	Anthony Warren		Denny DesRosier
Ersun Ozer			Jim McCormack
Doreen Kutufam			Michaela Wolfinger
Shahid Hague- Hausrath			Bonnie O'Neal
Mark Annas, Sect.			

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 5:15pm by the Chair, Jessica Peterson. The guests were each given an opportunity to introduce themselves, and share what has piqued their interest in international affairs. Michaela stated being involved on HIAC would allow her to use her degree, and "It's so important to be aware of what's happening around the world". Denny stated in his previous employment, he was in their international division, which allowed him to travel to many places. Jim talked about his son's study abroad adventures which led to family vacations to these places.

Bonnie given opportunity at the beginning to announce the Helena Citizen's Council is sponsoring an event on Monday, January 18, 2010 from Noon-3pm at the Bryant School in Helena. This will be an event that focuses on diversity, and was wondering if HIAC wished to be involved. She would need to know by January 1, 2010 of our intentions.

Review Agenda, Approve Minutes

Moved by Shahid and seconded by Ersun that the minutes from the August, September, October, and November, 2009 meetings approved. Approved unanimously.

Alignment Strategic Planning Session for 2010

Jessica reported HIAC's current budget stands at \$4471.37. We currently are budgeted for \$1500 with the Myrna Loy Theater (\$500 for an "International ... performance", and \$1000 for "2 HIAC sponsored panel events and films"); \$400 for materials; and \$500 for diplomacy (lunches and dinners).

For next year's budget, Mark will need to draft a budget, which can be routed to Council members. Once a final proposed budget is agreed upon, Mark will need to incorporate that into a letter, followed up by a meeting with Debbie Havens, in the Mayor's office, to whom the letter can be presented. This meeting has to be held by Feb. 1, 2010.

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Discussion was wide ranging as to the direction of this Council. Continued involvement with HCTV discussed, involvement with the Helena Brewers; film festivals with an international theme. The next Neighborhood of Nations segment will be on immigration. Shahid and Doreen will collaborate on developing this segment, with airing scheduled in June, 2010. Another segment on environment is hoped to be aired in November, 2010. Tony would be primary on this segment.

Doreen stated it would be good for the Council to draw closer to the Montana Council on International Visitors (MCIV). Jesse felt it would also be good to have stronger ties to the Governor's Office on Economic Development (Jackie Williams is a contact with this group). Ersun agreed to be the liason to this office.

Council discussed "welcoming" events that could be possibly be held at the Myrna. Shahid offered immigration could be a possible theme. Another possibility discussed was informal gatherings for those from other countries who are residing or visiting in Helena. This could be held at the Myrna, but the \$500/event cost could be prohibitive if these were to be recurring events.

Copies of the "Governance Calender 2010" were distributed to the members. Members then volunteered for "Delegate Duty":

- Shahid as primary for June, backup for April
- Doreen as primary for April, backup for March
- Mark as primary for Jan., Feb., and March
- Jessica as primary for May and July
- Ersun as backup for Jan, and Feb.
- Tony as backup for June, July.

Volunteers also assigned to various months for website responsibilities (ie. making sure current events are being posted).

- Tony will be primary for Jan., Feb.
- Doreen primary for March, April
- Jesse primary for May and June.

Went only to mid-year; months of August through December will have to be chosen at a later date.

Jessica requested a motion HIAC elections be moved to March, 2010, from January, 2010.

Ersun moved, Shahid seconded, approved unanimously.

Past and Future HIAC Events

No discussion.

Public Comment

No discussion.

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Next Meeting

Our next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at the City County Building.

Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 6:30pm.