



**Helena International Affairs Council
03/17/09 Minutes**

Welcome and Introductions

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE	AFFILIATES IN ATTENDANCE	GUESTS
Tony Warren	Will Garvin		
Jessica Peterson, Chair	Mark Annas, Secretary		
Shahid Haque- Hausrath	Robert Simpson		
Ersun Ozer			
Doreen Kutufam			
Campbell Pryor			

Welcome and Introductions:

Meeting commences at 5:25 PM.

Review Agenda, Approve February Minutes:

Doreen moved that the HIAC approve the Minutes from February and Shahid seconded this movement. The Council approved the February Minutes unanimously.

Introduction of our new members:

The City Commission approved the appointments of Anthony Warren and Robert Simpson to the HIAC. The HIAC members welcomed our two new members.

Current Status on “Neighborhood of Nations’ and discussion of our 2nd show:

Last meeting on March 6th or thereabouts. Doreen and Mark talked about the show. They are having difficulty getting the actual interviews completed. They asked others on the Council to do the interviews. Jesse conducted three interviews. Doreen conducted her interviews. We are waiting for all the tapes to look at them and plan the beginning and end of the show in the studio.

Doreen and Kirsten will have a conversation about the show and how it actually gets edited.

Need a signature image – what represents HIAC? What does HIAC stand for? Members suggested a group of pictures, a montage of pictures. Jesse will send this and music.

It was also suggested that an aerial view of Helena with something like the City/County building and then panning out to the World with a series of pictures in between might be a nice opening to the show.

Tony Warren will do the sports show with Will Garvin.

Finally, the Council voted to change its April meeting from April 21st to April 22nd and hold it at the Mediterranean Grill. This will be a joint launch party for our first episode of “Neighborhood of Nations,” and our monthly meeting.

Report on recent immigration legislation and status:

Shahid reported on the current immigration bills in circulation this legislative session. There are 9 total bills dealing with immigration. Shahid believes there are some that will adversely affect the international community in Helena. There were 4 bills in the house that all businesses would have to use E-verify. Implementation of the system costs a lot of money. There is an error rate that's quite high for foreign-born residents. This would have a negative effect because of the hassle to do checks. Employers are likely to just hire someone else rather than deal with the issue. This bill died.

There is a new group called MILE that wants stronger immigration laws, and the group consists mainly of militia people, according to Shahid.

There are three bills that have passed the Senate and will now be in the house.

1. State must enter into memorandum to use the federal legislation and the state patrol will be able to pull people over. SB 381
2. Would make it a state crime to harbor, conceal, assist anyone to stay in the country if they are undocumented – this would be a misdemeanor. If you shield your cousin at your house, they can take your house. SB 379
3. SB 382 – Requires the state government to cooperate with the federal government on any immigration issue. Anyone who doesn't think the state is doing enough can sue the state. Has passed in the Senate and will move to the House.

Christine Kaufman had a bill that would be used for integrating immigrants into Montana, creating an informal commission to help...like language issues, getting services, etc. The other part of this bill is to take away the language of “illegal alien” because a human can't be illegal; an action is illegal.

Website discussion – what's next to get it up and working?

The HIAC agreed to plan and implement our new website at our May 19th meeting. David Anson will attend this meeting, and we will finish the design and assign ourselves duties for keeping up the website.

HIAC Member Diplomacy Duties and Calendar

The Council tabled this agenda item.

Past and Future events:

No past or future events were reported.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Shahid moved to end the meeting, and Tony Warren seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30PM