

INTERVIEW LOG OF SLOVENIAN MEETING

The interview started with Monica and me arriving about 30 minutes early. The meeting was scheduled for 7:15 p.m. With this time we put our equipment together and made sure it worked well. We talked to a priest who pointed us in the right direction of the meeting. Monica and I introduced ourselves to the Slovenian President, Mary Ann Vogel. Mary Ann was nice enough to let Monica and myself ask the board questions before they began. The meeting was inside a rectory, in a dining room atmosphere. The board was mostly older with the exception of Mary Ann and a new member named Phil who would ask his own questions during the interview. There were 6-7 people in the room and the mic, with an air conditioner that may have caused some sound problems. So since there was a new member to the group we began there.

We start off introducing ourselves and what we are planning to do without their interviews. Told them about the dollar Slovenian campaigning and that we wanted to know more about what one group was doing to promote the future of the garden **1-3 min**

Mary Ann - talks about ad hoc committee this is, talks about members on the board. People walk into room. introduce ourselves to man named Phil. Phil also wants to know more b/c he is new. This is good for us b/c he is a member and is new therefore he has an interest in where group is going. Mary Ann talks about one of the many organizations she is involved in. Mary Ann tells Phil what we are doing at the meeting. We start with Phil Hrvatin.

SINCE YOU ARE NEW WHAT HAVE YOU JOINED THE ORGANIZATION 3-6 min

HRVATIN Says he was drafted into organization, meet other member in other Slov. groups. Cross serve on many interests in community. Serves on a couple of other boards but overlap of Slov community. he tonight to find about goal of gardens and mission and actions in how to grow and enhance community involvement.

ARE YOU 100% SLOV AND DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF SLOV OR AMERICAN OR AMERICAN SLOV. 8-10 MIN

HRVATIN American Slov, his parents were slov and grandparents born in Slov or Austria Hungary depending on what side of the war someone favored. *Very Proud of heritage* and would not be here.

DOES ANY HAVE ANY MEMORIES THEY WANT TO SHARE ABOUT CCG 10-15

Hocevar Talks about vandalism. Everyone hit by vandalism. Children did not do this, people and hell raising of 60's.

HRVATIN Many area affected by social ills that affect neighborhoods.

Hocevar Talks about cultural groups and dancing performing arts.

MARY ANN ASKS ANYONE IF THEY REMEMBER GOING DOWN IN THE PAST 15-17 min

JOAN talks about big banners of Cleveland bicentennial very natl. made banner of own and displayed in one world day, it was in the 1970's large banner 4 foot by 6 foot. Mary Ann went in national custom. Monica told Mary Ann she was at one world day.

Mary Ann Talks about Gardens and Slov history 17- 20

Mary Ann talks about Slov garden opening Gardens have been an important part of the City for a long time. *Slov dedication not small thing Major event took all of St. Claire Ave, Huge parade Men on horseback, people hanging out windows of St Claire* Talks about immigration of slov. On E. 55 street *settlers A city of Slov with own small sects of Slov* with different dialects regional here. had different neighbor hood names. *3#rd largest slov community in world in Cleveland*

Hocevar Census is off b/c Slov is same as polish or Slavic, many slovs put American as nationality. Some people see themselves as Austrian. People sometimes do not know nationality b/c off al the history that is involved in it. Talk about border disputes in slov and is still going on.

Hryatin Slov trying to become part of NATO and EU. issues of unresolved property rights .

Mary Ann Problems of WW2 have been brought to states. Major separations of ties. *Want to build something that all slavs can be proud of their heritage no matter of political inclination was this garden is where slov allowed heritage to go on. and proud of being Slov* this is why Mary Ann is in organization. *Trying to pull people together* Trying to build something that when people come and see gardens they say those people must have been important and whatever they did is there for other to see. *We are not giving a history lesson in garden* She then talks about the people in the gardens like Bishop Bagada and his achievements.

What is 501 C-3 20-24 min

Hryatin Is a tax exception IRS need to meet certain criteria no political agenda but cultural. Trying to separate politics and culture

Mary Ann says how no one in gardens should be political, *people who enhance your culture* .

Hocevar talks of Senator Lauch but excluded but benefited the arts. They have to petition federation on who they put into the gardens.

HRYATIN talks of different groups .

How would you add monument bust to the gardens 24 to 28

Mary Ann Have to replace old bust before anything else that has been lost or stolen writers and bishop. We like to add a couple of different bishops people who preserved the Slov culture during German occupation of slov. The after of Slov liter. music composer. musicians and composers. Carl Mouser contemporary person to put in gardens.

End of side A left 2 min on tape did not want to miss any of their conversations.

Side B picks up after 2 min silence. I flipped tape over and did not rewind to beginning so there is a delay on the tape. 30-

Hocevar Talks about national home.

Talking about people coming out in more number 30 - 35 years ago into the gardens how can we get more people into the gardens. side b 3- 7 min

Mary Ann Says that is the federation issue *as a whole working together to national historic landmark. Trying to work with our neighbors trying to become part of the larger community. These are grass roots organizations* Each group trying to preserve identity. Started w/ last president and now with Parras, this is the only chain of gardens like this in the country. *Screams peace unity and diversity.* Has lot of history but trying to take gardens to next level make it national more funding *We need people to feel the gardens are safe that is accessible and can park. Don't have to worry about what happens there.*

HRYATIN Talks about park use and resembling a metropark. Talks about location of park. There are ties to botanical

Mary Ann People can have weddings through gardens.

Essentially Gardens are a backdoor to Cleveland Cultural center? 7- 12 min

Mary Ann Only way to get into university circle for people who use showery by going through gardens. Symposium coming to Cleveland 400 people expected to come and see Lituwanian garden of flowers and architecture of park *Trying to make ourselves more visible and known.* There was a celebration of Confucius in Chinese garden to honor teachers.

Hocevar *No nationality use garden annually.*

Mary Ann *Up until recently our garden was not safe, physically not safe, need to be renovated.* Spend time on trying to raise money. Trying to get more busts.

How much support are you getting from govners office 12 -15 min

Mary Ann help off on a lot of things because of 501 c3.

Does anyone have a special memory they would like to share. 15- 17 min

Mary Ann Cleaning the garden (being funny about it) Maintain gardens we ever we fell like it. Larry went out almost everyday to put water on.

Mary Ann *The city has put up 100,000 in their garden alone.* hope to raise enough money in Dollar Slov. campaign to begin a endowment fund. *Never do we want another group of people 30-40 yr. down road has funds to maintain as they are going along .*

HRYATIN Did we ever receive money form Slov govt. 17-20 min

Mary Ann Yes a 1 time deal gave garden 50,000 Slov have bureau for slovs living abroad and who are promoting culture, keep language church and literature. Blessed by the money. Were benefactors of the previous members of Slov gardens they got the Slov. gov involved to get money for gardens. Without that money no landscaping no infrastructure repairs. Historically Slovs interested in literacy 18th century literature.