

### **Board members and officers**

- Nate Jones, Joshua McTeer, Peter Kleinman, Anton Relin, and John Zola were elected to another two-year term.
- Joe Stepanek, Aldona Siczek, Sophia Stoller, Peter Stoller, Rett Ertl, Jeff Magnuson, Cholpon Minbaeva, Maya Vakhobov, and Gavhar Osimi continue on the Board
- Hanaan Llewellyn and Katy Finlinson were elected to a first two-year term.
- Rett Ertl remains as president; Gavhar Osimi and Maya Vakhobova as vice-presidents; Nate Jones as secretary; the treasurer position remains vacant.

### **Brief on Friendship Center/USAID**

- City is willing to meet with Aga Khan Foundation, who is doing a study to determine the best use of the Friendship Center, which is underutilized.

### **25th Anniversary of Teahouse**

- Project being spearheaded by Sara Martinelli
- Reception at Museum of Boulder, April 7th
- VIP reception at Teahouse, May 19th
- Will invite the Mayor of Dushanbe and Tajikistan Ambassador to the U. S.

### **Slideshow of September Tajikistan trip**

#### Uzbekistan: Tashkent

- Got to visit a mosque & experience cultural immersions, then took a bullet train to Samarkand
- Samarkand – visited historical square/buildings Registan, paper making business, the necropolis

#### Tajikistan:

- Sarazm:
  - Visited hostel/dining hall owned by woman that stayed with Ertls in Boulder
  - Went to the 7 lakes – beautiful, but bad road, and it took several hours. Didn't get to Dushanbe until after dark
- Dushanbe:

- Friendship Center: ground was completely bare, many Tajik flags on building, one City of Boulder poster inside. City of Dushanbe conducts some language classes in the building
  - Two other business lease the rest of the space
    - Basement was full of video game setups
    - Other part of building became hookah bar/night club
- US Embassy:
  - Met with US Ambassador, and USAID Deputy Director Jim Parys (grew up in Boulder) who arranged to host a party at his house
- Last day: met with Deputy Mayor of Dushanbe, took group to lunch
  - Got to discuss hopes and concerns for the Friendship Center
- Khujand: bordering Uzbekistan, met with Maruf (young artist that worked on the Teahouse), stopped by Tajik Sea

### **Closing Comments**

- Planning another trip, will spend more time in Dushanbe
- Manager of the Friendship Center is young, doesn't have much power to sway things
- Aga Khan did a survey of people in the area, only around 27% knew what the Friendship Center was