

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2008**

<b>Members</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Commissioners:</b>
Stephen McGaughey	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	X	P	P	E	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
Michelle Moskowitz	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	X	P	E	E	P	Comm. Ralph Cabrera Jr.
Ray Airan	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	E	Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk Jr.
John Carpenter	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	A	P	P	E	Mayor Don Slesnick
Luba DeWitt	P	P	P	P	E	A	P	X	P	P	P	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Art DeNunzio	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	David L. Brown, City Manager
Carolina Rendeiro	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	E	P	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

**STAFF:**

Olga M. Garcia, Mayor's Office  
Alfred Santamaría, Mayor's Office

**GUESTS:**

Jim Barker, Former City Commissioner  
Belkys Perez, Office of Public Affairs

Chair Carolina Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. A quorum was present.

Ms. Rendeiro distributed an e-mail regarding Ms. Michelle Moskowitz' absence last meeting to be reconsidered as an excused absence. **Motion** was made by Ms. Rendeiro to excuse Ms. Moskowitz' absence from last month. Motion was seconded by Mr. DeNunzio and passed unanimously.

Ms. Rendeiro informed that Mr. Ray Airan is traveling today and he sent his excuse by e-mail. **Motion** was made by Ms. Rendeiro to excuse Mr. Airan's absence. Motion was seconded by Mr. DeNunzio and passed unanimously.

Ms. Rendeiro informed the group that Mr. Mark Trowbridge from the Chamber of Commerce will not attend this morning.

Former Commissioner Jim Barker spoke about the Donald Hopkins Scholarship, established in 1989 to help young people living in the MacFarlane Homestead District. The scholarship is named after Donald Hopkins who was raised in Coral Gables and who is famous for his research on Guinea Worm Disease and River Blindness. The scholarship is awarded to Coral Gables High School students who live in the Gables and have a 2.5 grade point average. Scholarship winners are recognized each year at a City Commission meeting. A committee selects a scholarship recipient in April or May, awarding them \$5,000 for college tuition. If there is more than one recipient, the funding is evenly distributed. The program is very strict on how the money is awarded. Former Commissioner Barker reported that this program has been very successful, announcing that the first recipient of this scholarship came back to work in Miami-Dade County after attending college and is now a pharmacist.

Ms. Rendeiro briefly spoke about the funding requested for middle school children to travel to Guatemala in an exchange program sponsored by IACC. The City did not approve the spending of \$1,500 requested until more clear guidelines were developed. It was suggested to look into the Hopkins Scholarship for guidance.

Mr. Barker shared that University Baptist Church has an exchange program that has sent 20 people to Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru and Dominican Republic. He offered to contact the coordinator of the program to make a presentation to this Board.

Members of the IACC thanked Former Commissioner Barker for his presentation.

**Motion** was made by Ms. Rendeiro to approve the March minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Mr. DeNunzio and passed unanimously.

Ms. Belkys Perez from Public Affairs extended an invitation to work more closely in promoting the programs of the IACC. She reported that the City has many avenues to promote programs such as e-News, different shows on television, and the radio station. As an example, CGTV has interviewed Donald Hopkins for a great television show. She informed that the deadline for e-News is two weeks in advance, for television coverage notice of the event to be filmed is required in advance, and for press releases as the news comes. Deadline for Golden Gables is two months in advance. She extended an invitation for an interview on Coral Gables Now which is taped a month in advance. Ms. Perez also suggested taking a video camera on international missions to use that footage in future television shows.

Ms. Rendeiro reported that she had met with City Manager David Brown, City Attorney Liz Hernandez and Ms. Olga Garcia about setting up a trust fund for IACC purposes. She is recommending putting a list of objectives together about how these monies would be used. She recommended members to come with a list of three or four items that this group is looking to accomplish to the next IACC meeting.

Ms. Garcia also informed that she is trying to set up a meeting with Mr. Tony Ojeda, Executive Director of the International Trade Consortium to get additional ideas on funding. She will invite him to a future meeting.

Ms. Luba DeWitt indicated that when establishing a trust fund, most board members are asked to contribute. The Museum Board, for example, asked of each board member to bring or make a contribution of \$5,000.

General discussion was held regarding the establishment of the trust fund. Further discussion was held about setting up categories for fundraising, creating a selection process and presenting goals for the trust fund. Discussion was also held regarding using the Coral Gables Community Foundation as a conduit for fundraising toward international outreach.

Ms. Rendeiro presented an update on the Chamber of Commerce's mission to Italy, which has not been an easy task. A group of 14 people, including the Beacon Council and City of Miami members, will travel to Milan, Florence and Pisa. She reported about the mission's general itinerary.

Ms. Rendeiro also informed that the Mayor's Office will help staff the International Affairs Coordinating Council. The Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce International Division will work in partnership with IACC toward international outreach.

Discussion was held regarding who should be allowed to speak during IACC meetings. Most members agreed that guests are welcome to present comments and be allowed to speak. Ms. Garcia will research proper protocol and will report back.

Ms. Garcia reported on Vice-Mayor Kerdyk's visit to La Antigua, Guatemala. Mr. Alfredo Santamaria provided further details on the Vice-Mayor's trip summarizing the trip as a great experience.

With no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Olga M. Garcia  
Mayors Office

DRAFT