

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

Minutes of the Meeting of July 17, 2018

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Israel Reyes	E	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	X	P	E	E	Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	E	-	P	P	P	X	P	E	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Claudio Pastor	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	X	E	P	E	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	X	P	P	P	Comm. Michael Mena
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	X	P	P	P	Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

Country Appointed Liaisons:

Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzán
Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding
Antigua, Guatemala – Mr. Gavarrete

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

UA = Unexcused Absence

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC
Beba Luzarraga

Guests:

No guests were present at this meeting.

Ms. Cuzán called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. A quorum was present. Mssrs. Anding and Monasterio were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Reyes made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting of June 19, 2018 and Mr. Pastor seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Ms. Cuzán introduced Beba Luzarraga as the new assistant to Mayor Valdés-Fauli and she proceeded to give brief remarks on her background with University of Miami, Miami Dade County and more recently with Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Members responded by giving brief introduction of themselves and a history of the IACC.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Ms. Kadragic reported that the AIX Christmas Fair dates are November 30 thru December 5, 2018. Due to previous engagement she would only be able to be there for three days and it was agreed that it would not be possible for her to participate fully and therefore not feasible for this year. Pre-plan and prepare for next year's Christmas fair in Aix-En-Provence.

Ms. Kadragic also reported the Turkish elections were finished.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrete gave a brief update on the status of relationship with La Antigua, Guatemala which has changed due to the situation with the volcano. He is still waiting for response from Baptist Hospital which seems to be moving very slowly. He stated that there may be a need to explore a relationship with another hospital.

Mr. Gavarrete also reported on the generosity of the City of Coral Gables in helping the fire fighters in Antigua. He further stated that Dunia Miranda-Mauri, Trade Commissioner, Guatemala Trade and Investment office was making sure that the donations from the IACC were allocated to La Antigua which is our Sister City.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzán reported that there is a new mayor in Cartagena. A small delegation of volunteer fire fighters is expected to come to Coral Gables in early August and she is working with the City Manager's office on assistance for training on marine security. She spoke with Daniel Perez Cantero and the visit is confirmed for August 2 – 3, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pastor provided an update of possible Sister City pairing with Como, Italy. They are currently in consultation with the Consular office and former Consul General did not make a decision and is no longer in the post; the interim Consul General does not want to make a decision because he is temporarily assigned to this post; new Consul General is scheduled to arrive in August and he will approach at that time.

Ms. Cuzán stated that they are looking for a country for Mr. Reyes and considering Santa Tecla, El Salvador (recently approved); also looking at Almeria, Spain and San Isidro Argentina

Other topics of conversation by the group were: Sister Cities Foundation started by Mayor Cason; explore depth of relationships with the various sister cities as the needs are different; occasionally invite them to attend IACC meeting; determine appropriate events to invite local Consular offices representatives of current and pending sister cities; share knowledge with them about our city and have them share their knowledge with us.

Mr. Reyes stated that he is happy to be liaison for police department initiative.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

All members in attendance presented Evelyn Paz with a gift to commemorate her retirement from the city after 30 years of service. She was surprised and emotional and thanked the group. She said she is very proud to have been part of all the accomplishments of the IACC during her tenure with the group since 2008. All members present congratulated her and wished her best of luck in her retirement.

Invitations to Santa Tecla events were shared with meeting attendees and mailed to members who were not present.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 21 , 2018.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Beba Luzarraga

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council