

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

Minutes of the Meeting of January 16, 2018

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

Country Appointed Liaisons:

Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzan
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

Guests:

Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Mr. Efrain Sora, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Liaison

Ms. Cuzan called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Monasterio made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on December 19, 2017 and Mr. Anding seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Mr. Anding said there has been a follow up with France regarding the visit from the delegation in November. Mr. Anding and Ms. Cuzan met with Leticia Perez and Leonard Roberts from the City's Economic Development department to discuss what business developments and innovative council ideas they could address and send to Aix. Ms. Perez said they had received letters from the business delegation after Economic Development had sent them letters. The

delegation expressed their interest in a partnership with Coral Gables. They will be following up with members of the delegation that showed interest in opening a business in Coral Gables. Mr. Roberts suggested they bring an educational aspect to the Sister Cities program in partnership with FIU, UM and the Kellogg School of Management. The Mayor said the Mayor of South Miami showed interest in a business as well. The meeting also discussed the Innovation Council program and presenting it to Aix. Mr. Anding and Ms. Cuzan presented the Mayor with a summation of the meeting with Economic Development and asked the Mayor for a meeting with the team from Economic Development and himself to discuss drafting a letter to the Mayor of Aix on the proposed ideas.

Ms. Kadragic added that because these are business development ideas maybe the Chamber of Commerce should be involved. Mr. Anding said that they will be included because they had also been part of the delegation meeting.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrete said he is still waiting for the University of Miami Hospital to provide a list of available medical equipment that can be offered to the hospital in La Antigua. Mr. Sora was going to put Mr. Gavarrete in contact with the international development department.

Mr. Anding said he contacted Mr. Alex Fuentes, who is the Director for Baptist Hospitals international relations outreach program. Mr. Fuentes provided contact information for the person exactly in charge with the person who handles Central American outreach. Mr. Anding is still waiting for the letter from Mr. Gavarrete with a summary for the hospital so that he may forward that to the contact for Baptist Hospital. Mr. Gavarrete said he will get the letter to Mr. Anding promptly.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

Ms. Cuzan said there is an interest to move forward with the relationship. They would like the Mayor to visit Cartagena. Ms. Cuzan said a visit from the Mayor would be a strong showing of the City's continued interest in the relationship. Ms. Aida Lequerica is currently in Cartagena and would be happy to help facilitate the meetings with Mayor Valdés-Fauli and the Mayor of Cartagena.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor expressed his support for sister city relationships as long as they make sense. He received a letter from Andorra la Vella the capital of Andorra. The Mayor wanted to make sure that each member of the board was nurturing a relationship with their respective cities.

Ms. Kadragic said the Turkish Consulate was interested in having a letter from the Mayor of Coral Gables expressing interest in having a Turkish sister city. The Mayor directed Ms. Paz to draft a letter. Ms. Kadragic informed there will be a Turkish flag displayed as part of the Flags

on Ponce Initiative through the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Bortia through the Coral Gables Chamber was very eager to establish a sister city relationship and is anxiously awaiting the letter to explore a relationship with Turkey. He had recommended a relationship with another city in Turkey not a suburb.

Mr. Monasterio met with Ms. Rendeiro and the Mayor to discuss formalizing the relationship with Aveiro. The Mayor would like the Mayor of Aveiro to visit Coral Gables and establish a relationship. The Prime Minister of Portugal will be in the United States in the next 3-4 months. Mr. Monasterio said it would be great to have him visit Coral Gables with the Ambassador to formalize the relationship. Mr. Monasterio said they need to send a letter of intention to the Mayor of Aveiro. With the help of Ms. Rendeiro, Mr. Monasterio would try to coordinate the Prime Minister and Ambassador's visit. After, send another letter to the Mayor of Aveiro regarding the upcoming visit and possibly invite the Mayor during the same time of the Portuguese delegation. Ms. Cuzan said they should go ahead and send the letter of intent to Aveiro and wait for a response. Mr. Pastor said to keep in mind the head of the Miami Dade County School, Superintendent Carvalho, is Portuguese. The Superintendent is very proud to be from Portugal and would be helpful to the relationship to have him involved and might give more pull in the invitation to the Prime Minister. Mr. Anding suggested making an appointment with the Office of the Superintendent once there are more concrete details on how to pursue the relationship.

Mr. Monasterio discussed with the Mayor making Tequila, Mexico a friendship city. Mr. Anding suggested having the Mexican Consulate involved with the relationship. The idea was originally brought by Agave Holdings. Ms. Cuzan said a friendship city does not have to have so much protocol involved but the Consulate should be informed. Ms. Kadragic said Agave should probably contact their consulate since they were the original ones that brought up the idea.

Mr. Pastor said he is exploring a relationship with Como, Italy. The city is small but very beautiful. There is a strong local economy that is not tourism based. There is a university in the area that has a strong architectural component that could connect with the University of Miami's program. Como is a very artistic and historic city. Mr. Pastor said they are in the beginning stages of exploring a relationship. There are other cities that are being considered- Palermo and Salerno. However, nothing has gone further. Mr. Pastor is very hopeful that a relationship with Como will happen.

Ms. Cuzan said they had a visit from Diego Lozano, the owner of Diego's Restaurant in Coral Gables. Mr. Lozano has been an avid promoter of the City's relationships with Spain. Mr. Lozano is currently living in Spain but has interest in the states. He expressed an interest in working with the council in working with the City to look for potential Sister Cities in Spain. One option he mentioned was Sevilla, Avila, and Santander. Mr. Lozano is pursuing and looking into what the most logical, practical, and most interested cities. Mr. Lozano promised to get back to the IACC in the next couple of weeks with a report. Mr. Monasterio said the Mayor expressed

the most interest in Sevilla. Mr. Anding asked if Sevilla has any relationship in the United States. Mr. Monasterio said Sevilla has one in the Midwest and the North but none with a large Hispanic community. Ms. Cuzan said they will continue to pursue a city in Spain after they hear back from Mr. Lozano. Mr. Pastor said he would be in Spain in the coming future and would be happy to meet with Mr. Lozano.

The Mayor will be visiting Argentina in February. Mr. Anding asked what developments there have been with San Isidro. Ms. Cuzan said San Isidro has expressed a serious interest in a relationship with Coral Gables and are coordinating for the Mayor to visit. The trip to San Isidro will include the Sister City documents and have them signed while there. Mr. Anding suggested if the formal agreement is not signed, the Mayor should present San Isidro with a letter of intent. Ms. Cuzan said she was on a conference call with Mayor Valdés-Fauli, the Mayor of San Isidro, and the liaison for San Isidro.

Mr. Monasterio said it might be helpful when establishing a sister city relationship to send the letters to the cities' chambers of commerce because they are more stable. Ms. Cuzan said according to the Sister Cities bi-laws, before reaching out to a chamber of commerce they must check if they have the authority to foster sister city relationships.

Ms. Cuzan said they should set up a time frame to pursue and wait for responses. If the time frame passes then that would show there is not a serious interest. Ms. Kadragic suggested a six month period. Ms. Cuzan said she felt a six month period is a long time. She would suggest a three month period to assess the interest.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mr. Sora said the Chamber's annual trip to DC is March 19-21. They will be stopping at the Portuguese Embassy for a briefing. Mr. Sora invited the IACC. The meeting with the Embassy will be March 19th in the evening. Ms. Cuzan asked for further information regarding the program. Mr. Sora said he would be forwarding the information to Ms. Paz.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2018.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council