

**DRAFT**

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of November 29, 2007**

**MEMBERS:** **D J F M A M J# J A S O N COMMISSIONERS:**

Stephen McGaughey	P	X	P	A	X	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
Michelle Moskowitz	P	P	E	P	X	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Ray Airan	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
John Carpenter	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Don Slesnick
Luba DeWitt	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	E	A	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Art DeNunzio	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	David Brown, City Manager
Carolina Rendeiro	E	E	E	E	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

**EX-OFFICIO:**

Alfonso Cueto, Ambassador-at-Large

Ricardo Taño, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce / Vice Chair, International Committee

**STAFF:**

Lourdes M. Cuzán, Secretary, IACC

International Affairs Coordinator, Development Department

**GUEST:**

María Rosa Higgins-Fallon, Public Affairs Manager, City of Coral Gables

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

**Motion** was made by Ray Airan to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting of October 25, 2007, as presented. Motion was seconded by John Carpenter. The motion was unanimously passed.

Dr. Carpenter reported on his meeting with Vice Mayor Kerdyk to explore the possibility of an international program related to the education focusing on the need for teachers in the United States in science, mathematics, and special education. The program would consist on working with the Peace Corps, the Miami Dade County School District, and the community i.e., Coral Gables government, and the private sector. The program would assign Peace Corps volunteers with teaching degrees to teaching positions upon the completion of their service to the Peace Corps. As a result, a person who takes a 2 year assignment in Guatemala would be given the appointment by the Peace Corps and, simultaneously, Miami Dade School District would appoint them to a teaching position. Mr. Airan noted that the Vice Mayor is particularly interested in education and trade and, thus, was very enthusiastic about the proposed project.

Mr. McGaughey reported that the Historic Preservation Trust Fund was established in 1989 and that the one page document relates to the procedures for the use of the funds. He stated that it is a very straight forward process which requires the Board's recommendation to the City Commission for funding a specific project and ratification by the City Commission. Ms. Rendeiro requested that Mr. McGaughey provide Ms. Cuzán with a draft proposal by January 15<sup>th</sup> for the board to review and discuss at the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. She said that she would be available to assist with the draft proposal if necessary. Ms. DeWitt stated that during the seminar on fundraising she attended at the Sister Cities Conference it was clear that Ms. Cuzan (as a City employee) would not be allowed to participate in any fundraising

activities. Dr. Carpenter noted that it would be important to establish that the funds will be used for international projects and not only those related to the Sister Cities.

Ms. Moskowitz stressed the need to show the Commissioners the positive economic impact to the City as a result of the international activities and to increase awareness of the programs amongst the citizenry in order to increase community involvement. She asked Ms. Higgins-Fallon for her assistance in working with the Council to include the Council's activities in the City's communications. The Chair suggested that initially an article recapping the Council's activities for 2007 would be beneficial. Ms. Higgins Fallon said that she would be glad to assist the Council and said that the information on past and upcoming events could be publicized in the City's E-news, the radio loop (1620 AM), TV Channel, and the Web. She asked that the group submit detailed information on the pieces for publication and indicated the deadlines by which to submit the information to her office for the various publications. The group also discussed scheduling TV interviews with various members of the international community such as Consuls General and university professors. Ms. Higgins Fallon informed the group of the various TV shows available to them such as Coral Gables Now ~ one hour and it is taped a month in advance; Power Talk is ½ hour. The Chair suggested working on a March program. Ms. Moskowitz, Ms. Rendeiro, and Ms. Cuzán agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting to review the information to be submitted to the Public Affairs Department.

Ms. Rendeiro informed the Board that although the majority of the IDB programs events were being held in the Miami and Miami Beach areas the Biltmore Hotel and the Hyatt would also take part in some conference related events. She noted that the IACC Board Members would be invited to the various events and that she will provide the group with additional information in the weeks ahead.

Ms. Rendeiro reported that 18 delegates are confirmed for the Chamber's Trade Mission to Italy in February representing the business sector in the areas of Real Estate, film and entertainment, financial services, media, fashion, luxury goods, and law. She reviewed the itinerary which consists of Florence, Rome, and Pisa. She noted that the City will be highlighted at all times and she is hopeful that a City representative will participate in the Mission.

Dr. Carpenter reported on the creation of the Art Management Degree (one of 3 in the United States) at St. Thomas University and he urged the Council to consider co-hosting a breakfast or lunch with the University to promote the program in the Coral Gables art and business circles. Ms. Cuzán will schedule a meeting Dr. Susan Angulo, Associate Provost at St. Thomas University, to discuss the details of the program and a possible event in Coral Gables.

Ms. Cuzán distributed various newspaper articles of interests to the group such as a piece in the Miami Herald on the movie 'Love in the Time of Cholera' in which highlights Cartagena as a "chic tourist destination with a significant literary pedigree"; a Miami Today article on the Spain-US Chamber of Commerce success in the surge of Spanish businesses in South Florida; and a Herald article on the creation of a Sister City Trust Fund.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 31, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Lourdes M. Cuzán  
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council