

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

Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2008

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

EX-OFFICIO:

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

STAFF:

Olga M. Garcia, Mayor's Office

Dona Lubin, Assistant City Manager

GUESTS:

Mark Trowbridge, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce

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

Assistant City Manager Dona Lubin was introduced. Ms. Lubin was present to introduce Ms. Olga Garcia who will replace Ms. Lourdes Cuzan as the new secretary of the International Affairs Coordinating Council, in addition to her current duties as Assistant to the Mayor. Ms. Lubin explained that the function of this board is being moved back to the Mayor's Office. This process will elevate the importance of this board since the Mayor's Office is in direct contact with the City Manager's Office.

Ms. Rendeiro reported she has not been contacted by Ms. Michelle Moskowitz or by Dr. John Carpenter regarding their absences. Mr. Ray Airan announced he received a call from Mr. Stephen McGaughey excusing himself from the meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Airan to excuse Mr. Stephen McGaughey's absence. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeNunzio and it passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Airan to approve the minutes of February 28th meeting as submitted. Motion was seconded by Mr. DeNunzio and passed unanimously.

Ms. Rendeiro bypassed discussion on publications due to Ms. Moskowitz's absence and also regarding the Sister City Trust Fund due to Mr. McGaughey's absence. She reported, however, that a meeting with the City Attorney has been scheduled for April 14th to discuss the trust fund and that Mr. McGaughey will attend.

Further discussion was held regarding a trust account with the Coral Gables Foundation, a 501c3 organization, to benefit fundraising activities of the board. It was suggested to bring these options to the City Attorney's Office to discuss at their upcoming meeting.

Mr. Mark Trowbridge from the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce gave an update on the Italy trade mission planned for May 6. The delegation will be in Milan for two days, then to Florence and will also spend a day in Coral Gables' sister city of Pisa. The delegation will return on May 14. The Chamber has partnered with the Beacon Council, the county's economic development engine, to enhance future business opportunities. The trade mission will focus on three areas, the more prominent being fashion and luxury, a great fit for Coral Gables retail businesses. The delegation will have two different opportunities to meet with Consulate Generals from Milan and Florence. The previous IACC coordinator assisted with establishing connections with Pisa who have agreed to meet the delegation. Plans include a private tour of the famous Pisa Tower.

Ms. Luba DeWitt suggested including a tour of a small town 15 minutes out of Pisa to visit a design center factory. She remembers Gian Franco, a City Council member, as the contact and his information should be available in the IACC files. Trowbridge thanked her for the suggestion and was happy to forward any additional information about this upcoming trip. He also indicated that the Chamber is planning a similar mission to Guatemala next year.

IACC members thanked Mr. Trowbridge for his time.

Chair Rendeiro provided updates on additional international efforts:

- Japan: The City has worked with the Consulate of Japan on a past art exhibition.
- Peru: ITC will be spearheading a mission with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and, with support from the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, to Peru. Commissioner Natasha Seijas is expected to participate in this mission planned for September 2008. More information will be forthcoming as plans are confirmed.
- International outreach: The mission of the Coral Gables Chamber International Commission is to enhance tourism, extend business-to-business knowledge and enhance sister cities relationships. With the change of IACC staffing, Ms. Rendeiro reported meeting with City Manager David Brown and Assistant City Manager Dona Lubin to explore how the Chamber can assist this board. The Chamber's International Division consists of 43 people, 22 of them are being very committed. There are also subdivisions for various projects such as the Flags on Ponce initiative. Ms. Rendeiro asked for input on how the Chamber can assist this board. Mr. Ricardo Taño added that companies that previously have sponsored the IACC are now hurting due to the current economy. He has discussed with Ms. Rendeiro the idea of the City of Coral Gables, with the help of the Chamber and IACC, hosting a business conference or symposium. Further discussion was held regarding ways to take the IACC to the next level.

Motion was made by Mr. Ray Airan to have the IACC join efforts with the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. Motion was second by Mr. Art DeNunzio and was approved unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Olga M. Garcia
Assistant to the Mayor