

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of February 20, 2018**

<b>Members:</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</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>Commissioners</b>
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Israel Reyes	E	E	E	P	P	X	P	P	X	P	E	E	Comm. Frank Quesada
Alma Kadragic	P	P	-	-	-	X	P	P	X	P	E	P	Vice Mayor Patricia Keon
Claudio Pastor	P	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	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:**

Ms. Cuzan called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on January 16, 2018 and Mr. Monasterio seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

On January 29<sup>th</sup> Mr. Anding met with the Mayor and the Economic Development team. The Economic Development drafted a letter from the Mayor to the Mayor of Aix. The letter was sent February 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Anding shared a copy of the letter (see attached). Mr. Anding has not heard from his counterpart yet. His counterpart had mentioned new technology being developed in Aix for mosquitos by one of the local businesses. However, Mayor Valdés-Fauli had spoken to Mayor Stoddard of South Miami about the technology and Mayor Stoddard said the technology was already FDA approved and was being used. If the company were to come here they would need a production facility in Miami.

Mr. Anding said he will keep the Consul General informed as the relationship develops.

#### LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrete said he met with the UM School of Medicine. At the meeting, a representative from the Sylvester Cancer Institute was present and mentioned they have an international program and would be willing to help. Mr. Gavarrete gave the Guatemalan hospital the contact information and they are already in contact with them to provide equipment, testing, and information. Mr. Gavarrete is waiting for the information from the School of Medicine but is excited the hospital has begun to receive assistance.

Mr. Anding said he contacted a representative from Baptist Health with the information provided from the Guatemalan hospital. However, he has not heard back from the representative.

Mr. Gavarrete will be in Guatemala next week and will report any updates from the hospital at the next meeting.

#### CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

Ms. Cuzan said her contact in Cartagena thought it best to wait until the new mayor's election in Cartagena to proceed rather coordinating projects with the transitional mayor. The elections will be in July.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Monasterio is meeting with Ms. Carolina Rendeiro in reference to the Sister City relationship with Portugal. Mr. Anding said for the last couple of months it seemed the relationship was ready to be signed. Mr. Monasterio said Portugal is ready to move forward but there was a question as to whether they should send a letter to the chamber of commerce in Aveiro. The custom in Aveiro is to have mayors send a letter to their chamber of commerce to approve the relationship. Ms. Cuzan said Ms. Rendeiro had mentioned the chamber of commerce makes the decision. Mr. Anding asked for protocol, shouldn't the letter be sent to the mayor of Aveiro cc'ing their chamber of commerce. Ms. Cuzan said for protocol the mayors should be in contact then the mayor of Aveiro could delegate their chamber to proceed.

Mr. Pastor said he is looking into a relationship with Cuomo. There is a UM program that has shown a great interest working with the university in Cuomo for their strong architect background. A resident of Coral Gables, Mr. Cadenali, who has a property in Cuomo, has been very proactive in reaching out to the mayor of Cuomo. There have no official communication between the mayors. However, the resident will be travelling to Cuomo and meeting with the Mayor during his visit. Mr. Pastor said by the next meeting they should be able to draft an official letter from the Mayor of Coral Gables to Como.

Ms. Cuzan said she ran into Gigi at an Italian restaurant. He had spoken to the Mayor of Cuomo who expressed an interest in having a sister city relationship with Coral Gables. Ms. Cuzan hopes to hear from him in the next couple of weeks. By next month there should be a formal agreement from the two cities. Mr. Anding asked if the Consul General has been involved with the relationship of Cuomo. Mr. Pastor said she has not been directly involved. She has delegated to Mr. Pastor to contact. The Consul General will be leaving her post soon so is wrapping up items for her successor.

Ms. Cuzan asked if the Mayor will still be traveling to Argentina on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Paz said no due to scheduling conflicts. Ms. Cuzan said the trip would be postponed until the Mayor's schedule permits. Mr. Anding said he had a chance to speak to the Consul General of Argentina. The Consul General was pleased about the possibility of a sister city relationship with San Isidro. The Argentinian Chamber of Commerce was very happy with having a sister city relationship with Coral Gables. They thought it was the perfect match.

Ms. Kadragic said the Mayor has provided a letter to the Consul General of Turkey to have a friendship city in the country. Ms. Kadragic hand delivered the letter with a City of Coral Gables book. The Consul General said he was grateful for the letter and had begun the process of having Ankara, the capital, look for a city for Coral Gables to partner with. Mr. Monasterio asked what happened with Sisli. Ms. Cuzan asked for clarification on the relationship with Turkey and if there was a city that was interested or if the Consul General was the one showing interest. Ms. Kadragic said the Consul General is the one looking for a city. Mr. Monasterio said the inquiry with Turkey began when the mayor of Sisli reached out to Coral Gables. Sisli was a neighborhood in Turkey not a city. Ms. Kadragic said the Consul General rejected the idea.

Ms. Cuzan said she advocates for having all the information with a willing city put together before presenting it to the Consul General instead of waiting for them to look for a city. It makes the process longer and it is not required by the Sister Cities protocol. Ms. Cuzan said she has never seen a Consul General reject a relationship after all the background information has been presented. Ms. Cuzan said waiting for the Consul General to find a city within Turkey will not be very fruitful when there was already another city, Sisli, interested.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Kadragic suggested inviting the consul generals to the meetings to express the City's interest in forming a relationship with one of their cities. This would be for a matter of efficiency and inclusion for all parties. This would also gauge the Consul Generals position in the matter and give encouragement on how to proceed. Ms. Kadragic used the example of Turkey. Their cities cannot proceed with relationships without the approval of the foreign ministry.

Ms. Cuzan said the process has gotten very complex throughout the years. Ms. Cuzan suggested bringing it back to the original process of mayor to mayor speaking. History has shown when the consul generals are involved and they wish to proceed but the cities do not, the relationship falls through once the consuls go. The Sister City organization protocol is from mayor to mayor. It is nice to count on the consul generals' support but it is not required to be part of the decision.

Mr. Monasterio said it doesn't always work having the consul general involved. In the case of Avila in Spain the Consul General was interested but the city itself was not. Ms. Cuzan suggested working backwards. Contacting the cities to get their commitment then present it to the consul general. She used Pisa as an example. When the Consul of Italy left, the relationship ended.

Mr. Anding said the consuls should at least be included informally and invited to the signing ceremony. Ms. Cuzan agreed but said everything should be accomplished before presenting it to the consuls. If there is an interest from the cities, university and organizations to move forward with the relationships, at that point it should be presented to the consul generals.

Ms. Kadragic said with contacts in Eastern Europe or Asia where there is no natural contact, the contact should be with the consul general first. Mr. Pastor said he would like to see the contacts that are already established accomplish our long term and short term goals. He feared overextending the committee to not perform.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2018.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz  
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council