

# CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)  
 Sister Cities Committee  
 Committee Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, May 16, 2022  
 Location: City Hall Commission Chambers  
 405 Biltmore Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Coral Gables, FL 33134

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
<b>Raul Valdes-Fauli</b>	P	P	X	P	P								Mayor Vince Lago
<b>Volker R. Anding</b>	P	P	X	P	P								Vice Mayor Michael Mena
<b>Brett Gillis</b>	P	P	X	P	P								Comm. Rhonda Anderson
<b>Richard Montes de Oca</b>	P	E	X	A	P								Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
<b>Carlos Hernandez</b>	P	E	X	P	A								Comm. Kirk R. Menendez
<b>Alejandra Collarte</b>	P	A	X	P	P								Peter Iglesias, City Manager
<b>Rafael Gavarrete</b>	P	P	X	P	E								Council-at-Large Appointment

A = Absent P=Present E= Excused UA= Unexcused Absence X= No Meeting

- The International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm.
- Chairperson Valdes-Fauli welcomed everyone to the International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) meeting and thanked everyone for their efforts to come on a rainy day. He announced that the first item on the agenda was the approval of the April 18, 2022, meeting minutes.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (April 18, 2022)**

- Before the approval of the minutes Mr. Gillis made a correction on the second page, second line under the country report of Stellenbosch, he pointed out instead of “heard back from **him**” it should be “heard back from **her**”. **Vice Chair Anding made the motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Alejandra Collarte seconded the motion, as amended, which passed unanimously.** There was no further discussion regarding the minutes.

**COUNTRY REPORT**

CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA

- Mr. Perez introduced himself as the Director of Economic Development for the City of Coral Gables. He informed the board members that he had several things to report on the trip to the Sister City of Cartagena de Indias. He explained that this trip was mainly to restart the Sister City program with Cartagena de Indias, and he was planning to have this trip sometime in the next month or so. However, due to the first round of the national elections taking place in Colombia on May 29, 2022, we decided that it will be best to do the trip after the elections are over. Mr. Perez added that he

has had conversations already with Mayor Lago and with Chairman Valdes-Fauli about this trip and that he will let all the board members know when a new date is set to travel to Colombia.

- Chairman Valdes-Fauli reported that the Mayor of Cartagena de Indias is backing the leftist candidate in the Colombian elections, and he does not want for our trip to imply any kind of endorsement for any candidate. Therefore, it is best to postpone it.
- Mr. Perez also added that he had another item to discuss, and it was more on the positive side. He said that the department has had a number of Consulates inquire about Coral Gables as one of several potential sites which they are looking for in the County. He said that hopefully for the next meeting he may have some good news about one of them. He also mentioned that once he knows of any decision, he will make sure to share the news with all the board members.
- Mr. Perez read a report on behalf of Mr. Gavarrete who asked to be excused today.

#### SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

- Mr. Gavarrete asked to share with the board members today the contact information of the new Mayor of San Jose. Her name is Paula Vargas, and her phone number is 506-2547-6000.  
He also mentioned that Mayor Vargas will hold a temporary position replacing Mayor Jhony Araya until the next elections in Costa Rica in 2023.

#### SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR

- Mr. Gavarrete finally was able to get in touch with Mayor Henry Flores and the Mayor informed him that he named Commissioner Rosy Rivera to be in charge of the Sister City's International Program. A Zoom video conference will be scheduled for next week. Mr. Gavarrete will keep you all posted.

#### ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

- Dr. Richard Hansen, Archeologist of El Mirador Basin in Guatemala will be in Miami on the week of June 16, 2022. A conference will take place, more information will follow.
- Chairman Valdes-Fauli added that El Mirador is a Mayan ruin bigger than Pical that has just been discovered and the excavations are going on and it will be a fantastic archeological discovery.

#### SAN ISIDRO, ARGENTINA

- No updates regarding Argentina.  
Ms. Collarte informed the board members that Mr. Julian Perez, Ms. Leticia Perez and herself met with the new interim Executive Director of the Miami-Dade County International Trade Consortium (ITC) and the person who is now in charge of the Sister City's Program. They discussed how we can work and collaborate in the near future. She also mentioned that we all agreed to have the Interim Executive Director come to the next IACC meeting and give a brief presentation to the Board members.

#### AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

- Vice Chair Anding informed the members he did not have any updates for Aix-en-Provence but

he mentioned that a couple of years ago this committee had decided to have Mr. Raimundo Rodulfo give a semi-annual brief report on the ongoing cooperation in the information technology field between Coral Gables and Aix-en-Provence. He suggested we have Mr. Rodulfo give a semi-annual report in the next meeting.

#### QUITO, ECUADOR

- Mr. Montes de Oca informed the members that he is still trying to identify the new Consul General for Ecuador. Ms. Perez informed the Board that the new Consul General, Mario Fiorentino Coello arrived this year and has scheduled a meeting on May 17, with Mayor Lago. She added that she will be scheduling soon another meeting with Mr. Montes de Oca and Consul General Marion Fiorentino Coello.

#### STELLENBOSCH, AFRICA

- There are no updates.

Before the meeting adjourned, Mr. Perez informed the board that Mr. Rafael Gavarrete requested to be excused.

**Richard Montes de Oca made a motion to excuse Mr. Gavarrete. Brett Gillis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** There was no further discussion regarding the absence.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Leticia Perez  
International Business Development Representative  
Economic Development Department  
City of Coral Gables