

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

Minutes of the Meeting of April 18, 2017

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Israel Reyes	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	X	P	Vice-Mayor Frank Quesada
Carolina Rendeiro	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Nancy Sanabria	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	X	E	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Jeannett Slesnick
Steve Edelstein	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	E	Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City Manager
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

Country Appointed Liaisons:

Pending – Ms. Rendeiro
 Pending – Mr. Edelstein
 Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzan
 Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding
 Antigua, Guatemala – Ms. Sanabria
 Pending – Mr. Monasterio
 Granada, Spain – Mr. Reyes

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused
No Meeting

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guest: Rafael Gavarette, Resident

Ms. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Cuzan made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on March 29, 2017 and Mr. Monasterio seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

Ms. Sanabria said Ms. Miranda-Mauri will be present at the World Strategic Forum. She has not had an update from La Antigua.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan said Cartagena was very impressed with the information from their visit. The main project they will be focusing on will be the vehicular extrication training. Ms. Cuzan said she met with the City Manager. The City Manager has spoken to the Fire Chief to find out what would be a doable number for firefighters from Cartagena to come train here as well as housing options. Cartagena is also interested in obtaining a fire engine. Mr. Monasterio asked about the fire truck. Ms. Cuzan said the City Manager was working with the fire department to see when would be the next time a truck would be decommissioned. As for the transportation, they will be working with the DENTEN program again. The City is working on the request. Ms. Sanabria volunteered to help Ms. Cuzan with the truck delivery with a special meeting. The application is lengthy and requires many details.

Cartagena is also interested in a book donation program. Cartagena is establishing a library. Cartagena would like to be trained with our local library so there has been a lot of communication. They are not specifying which books so all are welcome. Cartagena will be responsible for the cost of transporting the books to their City. Ms. Rendeiro suggested Ms. Cuzan reach out to the International Committee at the Chamber of Commerce to help with the donation of the books. Ms. Rendeiro said to speak to Ms. Kadragic to coordinate.

GRANADA, SPAIN

Mr. Reyes said he had checked online to see the status of leadership in Granada and has reported no change. Ms. Rendeiro said she followed up with other corresponding countries that have relationships with Granada and nothing has happened with them either.

Ms. Rendeiro said she will be in Washington and have a meeting with the delegation in the European Union. She will make a point to ask why it is so difficult to culminate relationships with countries in the European Union.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Mr. Anding said he has nothing new to report from Aix.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Monasterio and Ms. Rendeiro will be meeting with the leaders of Agave to work on a relationship with Tequila after May 5.

Ms. Rendeiro said at the last meeting when they spoke with Caroline Parker and Oreste Hernandez. Since the meeting, Ms. Rendeiro and Ms. Paz have met with the City Manager to discuss the room at the Coral Gables Museum dedicated to Sister Cities. The City Manager suggested Ms. Rendeiro meet with Mayor Slesnick since he drafted the agreement for the room. Mayor Slesnick indicated the Ms. Rendeiro might reach out to Commissioner Chip Withers as he also sits on the board for the museum. She also spoke to John Allen. None of them were aware of the plans the museum had to remove anything from the room or to replace it with art not pertaining to our sister cities. Mayor Slesnick asked Ms. Parker put together her proposal for the room and present it to him. He has not received the proposal as of yet. Ms. Rendeiro said she feels only art our sister cities should be displayed in the room. Mr. Hernandez asked if the board would like him to be present at today's meeting. However, Ms. Rendeiro told him the item was still being

discussed. Ms. Rendeiro also reported that the key members of their executive board are not in favor of this new project for the room. Ms. Rendeiro said Ms. Parker has committed to a Venezuelan and Brazilian artist to be displayed in that room. However, at the last meeting Ms. Parker said she had not committed to any artist for the space. Ms. Rendeiro said Ms. Parker had to respond to the request since the City sponsors the room. Ms. Rendeiro said she visited the room and the Eisenhower video was not playing, there were folding chairs, and the tables were covered. Ms. Sanabria suggested an IACC member be in charge of overlooking the room. Ms. Rendeiro agreed.

Ms. Rendeiro said last meeting they spoke about a request from Sisci, Turkey. Because of the new political system in the area, she felt the request should be tabled. Ms. Rendeiro asked for input. Ms. Anding said at this time they should not pursue a relationship. Ms. Cuzan agreed. Mr. Anding motioned to table the relationship with Sisci. Mr. Reyes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rendeiro gave an update on Aveiro, Portugal. She has scheduled a trip for September. Ms. Rendeiro would like to speak to Mayor Valdés-Fauli about his schedule as well as Mayor Cason. Ms. Rendeiro said she would like to be there even if she will no longer be on the Board. Ms. Rendeiro said the City would have a strong relationship with Aveiro since they host festivals and events around the United States.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

At the next meeting Ms. Rendeiro would like the group from the University of Miami to present their marketing proposal. Ms. Rendeiro said it has been a learning experience for the students and the professors to get to know the Sister Cities program. Ms. Sanabria suggested they use the Museum as a meeting space with the group.

Ms. Paz informed the IACC board about the Swearing In Ceremony on April 28th at noon. There will be a reception after outside in the garden. Ms. Paz said the Chamber of Commerce will be honoring Mayor Cason on April 27th in the evening.

Ms. Sanabria said Mayor Valdés-Fauli be invited to meeting. Ms. Rendeiro suggested they invite him to a the second meeting of the new term.

Ms. Rendeiro said she is happy to have served on the Board and has enjoyed her time on the board. Mr. Anding said Ms. Rendeiro has been such a great role model and thanked her for her service.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2017.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council