

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

Minutes of the Meeting of July 20, 2010

MEMBERS:

J M A M F J D N O S A J COMMISSIONERS:

Allan Rosenbaum	P	X	E	E	P	X	E	P	P	X	X	E	Comm. Maria Anderson
Nancy Sanabria	E	X	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Steve Edelstein	P	X	P	P	E	X	P	P	P	X	X	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Carolina Rendeiro	E	X	E	P	P	X	P	P	P	X	X	P	Mayor Don Slesnick
Luba DeWitt	P	X	P	P	P	X	P	E	P	X	X	E	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Art DeNunzio	P	X	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	X	X	P	Patrick Salerno, City Manager
Paul Posnak	P	X	P	P	P	X	-	P	-	X	X	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

**A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused
X = No Meeting**

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guests:

Ms. Dana Klein, Honorary Consulate General of Macedonia
Mr. Volker Anding – German American Business Chamber

Meeting was called to order at 9:10am. A quorum was present.

The Chair opened the session by welcoming everyone and thanked all for attending. She advised everyone that the guest speaker would be late.

MERRICK FESTIVAL:

Mr. Edelstein brought up issues from the last meeting. He stated a large part of the Merrick Festival discussion was omitted due to noise and recorder problems. Mr. Edelstein stated the IACC voted to recommend to the Mayor and the City Commission to re-create the Merrick Festival with the IACC taking the lead role. He also wanted to bring up a new business matter regarding the recorder used at the IACC meetings. He referenced the recordings of the commission meetings and how easily and clearly they can be heard regardless of the amount of noise. He suggested the IACC explore means of acquiring a better recording machine.

Mr. Paul Posnak states that he has been involved for several years in a project called the Merrick Festival, directed by Sally Baumgardner. He describes it as a "catch all" for artists, artisans, sculptors, and musicians from our Sister Cities. The event took place on a center stage in front of City Hall. There was a performance and a presentation at the Hyatt Hotel. He also remembers a

reception at the home of Mr. Varela. He remembers it was a wonderful festival but says it grew too large and out of control with little or no quality control. He stated it was too difficult for one person to handle such a large task. The project was a great success but not a job for just one person. He states this project was a great way for interaction between the sister cities and local venues such as the new Gables Theatre and Museum. He suggested that even the sister cities could possibly do something on a smaller scale to reciprocate. He suggests that certain aspects of this project be delegated to various organizations, i.e. The Beacon Council. He suggests the IACC restart it, have a plan of action (i.e. locations, problems, transportation, specific artists, sponsors [businesses and local residents], etc.). In regard to the particular artists, he suggested local residents' could house the artists and make them feel "at home".

Mr. Edelstein mentioned closing one of the streets and he suggested the block between Le Jeune and Salzedo just west of Books and Books (300 block of Aragon). He brought up financing for the project and suggested talking to the Commission and Mayor, Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary for next year and mention the IACC would take the lead.

Mr. DeNunzio suggested the IACC invite Sally Baumgarden to the next meeting regarding the Merrick Festival.

Ms. Rendeiro reiterates what Mr. Posnak said earlier. She mentions the various cultural events that the sister cities produces and that it would be a great way for the community to come together. She mentions the financing and the difficulty of finding sponsors but that in order for the project to move forward, sponsorships are the key. Ms. Rendeiro mentioned the importance of establishing a budget and that she has a good form to help establish funding. She suggests the travel and tourism board as a resource.

Mr. Posnak re-emphasizes that quality is key! He mentioned that it is necessary to make sure there are only a handful of first rate events and exhibitions. This would make it more special and worthwhile. He also restates hosting the representatives of the cities and artists in local residents' homes without cost to the city.

Mr. Edelstein raises the issue of attendance and therefore says he likes the idea of putting this project forth every other year. He says by doing so, attendance would not waver. You wouldn't have to be limited to the events you put on, the extra year gives extra time to plan and fundraise. He also mentioned that there should be various types of events at various venues. He suggested a theme which would represent one or two cities, and suggested to have a rotation on the sister city delegation for that particular year's festival.

Mr. Posnak brought up the issue of insurance and the difficulty of obtaining it. He stated that insurance was expensive and stated the event would be held in October 2011, but would need to be approved this year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Steve Edelstein to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 20, 2010, and submit Paul Posnak's addendum re-instating the Merrick Festival. Motion was second by Art DeNunzio. The minutes were unanimously approved.

WELCOME HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL OF MACEDONIA MS. DANA KLEIN:

Ms. Klein informs the group about a potential new sister city, Struga, next to Orchid in Macedonia. She mentions how Struga is known for its history and architecture, especially churches. She mentions that the region is very international and when it came to picking a Sister City, Coral Gables was at the top of the list as an international influence. She advises of the process that ensued and is aiming for October 2010. The delegation is coming to set up the Sister City partnership. She mentions the group would consist of the Mayor, few members of parliament and a few business executives. She advises on the structure of the Macedonian government and mentions that although the parliament is political, they consider cultural education and economic exchanges as part of the bigger picture. She mentions this concept is a new one for Macedonia and they are open to suggestions. She mentions there is a Macedonian gallery on Miami Beach and that international relations is a priority. She also mentions Macedonia is one of the few countries in the world that is debt free but is not a member of the EU and is waiting response.

Mr. Edelstein stated the makeup of the delegation is diverse and impressive. He mentioned the date could pose a problem. Mr. Edelstein raises the issue of a growing Sister City program and possible opposition to expanding the program as the current program includes only six (6) cities. He suggests getting the City's position before moving forward.

SISTER CITY DESIGNATION PENDING:

Ms. Rendeiro announced the need of two needed Sister City liaisons which have not been assigned: Quito, Ecuador and La Antigua, Guatemala. She mentions the board members who are assigned.

- Aix-en-Provence, France – Steve Edelstein
- Cartagena, Colombia – Luba DeWitt
- The Province of Pisa, Italy – Art DeNunzio
- Granada, Spain – Carolina Rendeiro
- Quito, Ecuador – pending
- La Antigua, Guatemala - pending

Ms. Rendeiro received an approval for La Antigua, Guatemala from Nancy Sanabria and will reconfirm with Allan Rosenbaum for Quito, Ecuador.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Rendeiro announced a press release on the International School at 1:30pm today at 1570 Madruga Avenue. She mentioned the Mayor, as well as the Superintendent, will both be in attendance.

Ms. Rendeiro announced the Sister City conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico and mentions the voting that is going to take place. She says four people can vote on behalf of the IACC.

Ms. Rendeiro announced the next IACC meeting would be at the Coral Gables Museum on August 17, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28am

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council