

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

Minutes of the Meeting of September 21, 2010

MEMBERS:

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

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

Ex Officio:

Deirdre Nero, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce / Vice Chair, Int'l. Division Committee

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

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guests:

Dana Klein – Consulate General of Macedonia
Maria Korge – Korge and Company

Meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. A quorum was present.

The chair opened the session by welcoming everyone and thanked all for attending.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Paul Posnak to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 17, 2010. Ms. Luba DeWitt seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Slesnick remarks on three important matters. The first is regarding the Macedonian Delegation visit coming up in mid-October. He says it is similar to the visitation from Granada, Nicaragua in the sense that it is not a sister city but a special international outreach program. He requested everyone's help in regards to what to do in terms of tours and hospitality. He mentions the visit will include a meet and greet and approximately a two day tour and hospitality visitation that the City will be responsible for. Carolina mentions she spoke Ana Vela and she stated she

would offer their home for one of these “hospitality nights”. Mayor asks the group to focus on those dates to help out in contributing time and ideas. He moves on to mention that October 10, is the opening of the museum. He says because of budgetary crisis the opening will not feature exhibits but a celebration of the building and its restoration and the construction of the new wing. He says a more formal opening will probably occur next year. He mentions that he put together a \$250,000.00 gift from a fund he controls. In return for that gift, he says the “Perrin International Reception hall” will be available for such receptions. It is also a research reading room for the archives. He describes the way it looks and what will be featured in the room. He proceeds to describe the events of 10/10/10 at the museum. He asks the IACC to volunteer a couple hours to speak to attendees about the International Sister Cities program. Ms. DeWitt says she would like to contribute various books relating to Sister Cities to the museum. Mayor encourages this idea as that is one of the things that are necessary to contribute. He goes on to mention he put in an agreement that there will be \$10,000 set aside for furnishings for the “reading room”. Finally, Mayor mentions the festival in Aix-en-Provence during the Thanksgiving harvest season. He describes the festival in detail. He mentions that if there is anyone desires to go, there is an open invitation, however, on their expense. He mentions \$500.00 stipend to entertain the host as a thank you gift. He mentions we are sending over a box of various items such as literature on Coral Gables, etc. Luba adds to Mayor’s statements regarding the museum. Mr. Posnak mentions he could bring in a few artists to come play, perhaps even people from UM or the high schools. They also mention bringing such an act to the Macedonian Delegation.

FLAGS ON PONCE

Carolina mentions the IACC has reached out to the trade commissioner’s office because of the constraints on funding and they have given them certain flags from certain countries. The IACC mentions there will be a pretty good turnout of flags and the specs for the poles and flags for fitting will be available soon.

MACEDONIA DELEGATION

Dana Klein mentions approximately 10 people are coming the week of October 10. She says she will confirm their itinerary’s as soon as she knows. She welcomes any suggestions. She says they all speak English (thought it may be choppy), as well as Greek, and Albanian. She describes Macedonia as being in Southeast Europe, it’s landmarked between Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, and Serbia. You can get there through Vienna, Prague, and London. The exchange rate is 20:1. They are great allies of the US. They belong to a lot of the world organizations. They are not part of the EU, but have a lot of the trade agreements. Their industries are manufacturing, pharmaceutical, producing the Hugo vehicle. It was always been a province and now a country called the Republic of Macedonia. Ms. DeWitt suggests a meeting with FIU and UM. Also with the tourist board, perhaps through contacting Bill Talbert at the Visitor’s Bureau. They discuss a way to encourage those who will be coming to learn how to contact such organizations so that they are able to go back to Macedonia and pass along the information and encourage others to come. Carolina mentions the three most important aspects of these programs are economic, cultural, and educational factors. The group was coming up with ideas as far as activities for the Macedonian delegation (i.e. a bike ride tour)

Aix-en-Provence - International Fair of exhibit

Maria speaks of her visit to Aix and her visit with Régine, who she mentions was very sweet and hospitable. She mentions their conversation regarding the details of the festival. Régine said she wants some of the tastes and sounds of Coral Gables. She requested some things such as a DVD, a map, a brochure, magazines, and most of all things representative of Coral Gables (i.e. spoons, globes, etc.). Maria also mentions she will contact wholesale vendors to see what they can provide for sale at a cheap rate to be able to ship over to France for sale at the festival. She asks for any suggestions from the IACC group (i.e. plantain chips....anything different that the people of Aix may enjoy). Carolina raises a concern regarding the limited quantity of promotional gifts we are sending considering there are going to be 450,000 people. Carolina suggests an on-going video or a Sister City Business Card on a thumb drive. Luba mentions we need to focus on these things that will attract people to South Florida and plan better for next year to keep the idea going and flourishing. She says she wants to at least bring stuff to introduce South Florida at this festival to get people thinking about it so that when next year rolls around, they are better prepared and more informed. Maria stated she called Bill and Rolando to send Greater Miami pamphlets and any other materials. Carolina says Enterprise Florida already has stuff over there. Steve asks if anyone else is interested in going. Carolina says she'd like to go, but does not know if she can.

FINAL COMMENTS

Steve mentions that he was approached about a group of musicians that are clicking horn musicians who dress very elaborately and perform. They are from France and there is an entire group coming in November and will be performing throughout South Florida. They have expressed an interest possibly performing, if they are welcomed, in Coral Gables. This is to occur during "French week" sometimes in November. Paul suggests perhaps having them visit the UM school of music.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Members converse and make minimal announcements.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council