

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

Minutes of the Meeting of September 20, 2016

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	E	Mayor Jim Cason
Israel Reyes	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	X	P	Vice-Mayor Frank Quesada
Carolina Rendeiro	E	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	P	X	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Jeannett Slesnick
Steve Edelstein	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	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: Arthur Freyre, Chamber of Commerce liaison
 Rafael Gavarrete, Resident

Ms. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on August 16, 2016 and Mr. Reyes seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan said they were very excited to have the Mayor of Cartagena visit but it was cancelled at the last minute. The Mayor of Cartagena could not leave Colombia due to the President and Governor of Colombia's visit to Cartagena for the peace accords with the FARC. Ms. Cuzan thanked the City Manager and Ms. Paz for all their help with the program. Ms. Cuzan spoke with the president of the Colombian Chamber of Commerce who informed her of an open invitation for Mayor Cason to visit Cartagena. Ms. Cuzan said she would be happy to coordinate if the Mayor is interested. Ms. Rendeiro said that she met

with the delegation from Colombia that was having a program in Broward. She said they were very impressed with the relationship Cartagena has with the City of Coral Gables.

Mr. Edelstein asked if in the future the Mayor of Cartagena would be willing to visit Coral Gables. Ms. Cuzan said that he would and Mayor Cason had suggested that their fire department come for extrication training and business sector meetings. Ms. Cuzan said it is a matter of coordinating dates and schedules again. She suggested Mayor Cason visit Cartagena first. Mr. Anding asked if Cartagena suggested an alternative date for visiting Coral Gables. Ms. Cuzan replied not at this time they are planning Mayor Cason's visit first.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Ms. Sanabria said Chief Tony Rodriguez was the guest speaker at an Air Force Association luncheon. Mr. Edelstein said the lunch went well and spoke about his type of work. Ms. Sanabria said last meeting there would be a ceremony being held in La Antigua. Ms. Sanabria said she is still not sure if she would be able to attend, she is still trying to finalize her schedule. Ms. Sanabria asked if anyone from the Council or Mr. Gavarrete were interested in attending as well as inviting Chief Rodriguez. Ms. Rendeiro asked when they would go. Ms. Sanabria said that Ms. Miranda-Mauri had discussed a date around mid-November. Ms. Rendeiro said she would be willing to go on behalf of Sister Cities International. Ms. Sanabria said she would speak to Ms. Miranda-Mauri so that they can establish a date and see if the rest of the board would be willing to attend. Ms. Sanabria said that would the board be willing to invite Chief Rodriguez. Mr. Edelstein said they should invite him but he does not know if he would be allowed to go. Ms. Sanabria passed out the video from the fire truck delivery to the Council.

Mr. Gavarrete said at last meeting someone asked him for the name of the people that helped him so that they could be recognized. Mr. Gavarrete said one of the gentlemen who helped has had their ranks promoted. Ms. Sanabria asked how they should be honored.

Mr. Monasterio asked if they could finalize a date for the Antigua trip to let the Council know before next meeting so they could make plans to attend. Ms. Sanabria said she would speak to Ms. Miranda-Mauri to secure a date and send an e-mail to Ms. Paz so she could forward.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Mr. Anding said he sent his counterpart in Aix the document he had received from the Beacon Council as well as the Enterprise Florida website for business information with our area. Mr. Anding asked about the City of Bath. Mr. Anding said his counterpart was very excited about the information and is also working on contacting the police and fire departments to work on a program to come train in Coral Gables as was discussed with Mayor Cason. Mr. Anding's counterpart said Bath has an excellent exchange culturally such as visits to gardens. In regards to business exchanges, Bath belongs to a common area with Bristol similarly like Coral Gables to Greater Miami. Mr. Edelstein asked if he was able to obtain contact information for Bath. Mr. Anding said it was not provided in the email he received from Aix. Mr. Anding said he will ask again.

Mr. Anding said what would be the benefit for Coral Gables having a relationship with Bath. Mr. Edelstein the size is contemporary, has a high tourist attraction, it is on a river, it has a large city close like Bristol, it has an extensive cultural and historical background, the education system is similar to Coral Gables. Mr. Anding said there are many cities that could fit these criteria, but would like to know if we

have some sort of relationship with them. Mr. Edelstein said that most Sister Cities start off that way but the relationships can develop. Ms. Rendeiro said the UK is currently one of our highest trading partners. Bristol is one of the great cities for technological and engineering programs. Mr. Freyre mentioned he met with the Consul General of England which stated that UK companies are looking to open offices and Miami as a gateway to South America.

Mr. Reyes said a lot of countries are concerned with engaging in businesses in Central or South America because of the risk of dealing with South American courts. Mr. Reyes said a good selling point is the American Arbitration Association here in Miami.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Rendeiro explained how to access the website of Sister Cities International to members which is now open. The website provides a template on how to ask other cities to be our Sister Cities. Ms. Rendeiro said there is a city in Brazil that is just about our size.

Mr. Anding asked if they need to get an approval for a Sister City relationship from the International organization. Ms. Rendeiro said the approval comes from the City Commission and Sister Cities just signs off on it. Ms. Rendeiro said one with looking for relationships is doing the diligence on Bath or any other cities that the Council is interested in pursuing. Mr. Edelstein asked what were the limitations set by Sister City International for Coral Gables, for example, seeking relationships with cities that already formed a relationship with another Florida city. Ms. Rendeiro said because of the new process we can go directly to the perspective city to ask for their approval without waiting for Sister Cities International. Ms. Rendeiro said she would still ask the city within our State for their take on a relationship just to avoid friction.

Mr. Reyes said the website said that Coral Gables was not listed on the membership directory. Ms. Rendeiro said she will send an email to have that fixed on the website.

Mr. Monasterio said they are waiting for a formal letter for Santander. He is going to go ahead and schedule a meeting with the Consul General of Spain to help with the relationship. Ms. Cuzan said Jaime Angulo and his wife, who is the Provost at St. Thomas University, offered to help with contacts in Santander and the relationship. Mr. Monasterio said the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Santander suggested having an exchange before making the relationship official. Mr. Monasterio suggested the extrication program and welcome firefighters from Santander here as the exchange. Ms. Cuzan asked how they felt about having a university not located in Coral Gables be part of the program because St. Thomas University would be willing to help through the Provost. Ms. Rendeiro said she was ok due to the benefit in engaging the community would be to the City and the program. Ms. Sanabria said she would be fine as long as the University of Miami is not overlooked. Mr. Anding asked what part of the County the University located in. Mr. Reyes said it was part of unincorporated Miami-Dade. The board agreed unanimously to reach out to the University.

Ms. Rendeiro said new Consul Generals are taking office and suggested to have them come speak to the board to obtain their input and perspective on Sister City ideas. She said the State Department has mandated the Ambassadors to different countries are required to engaging the communities with entrepreneurship roles.

Ms. Rendeiro passed out the information the City obtained from Tequila, Mexico. They have shown an interest in wanting to be Sister Cities with Coral Gables. Mr. Monasterio motioned to consider Tequila as a Sister City upon further research. Mr. Anding seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Edelstein said that she would be happy to contact them to see what type of relationship they would be interested in having with Coral Gables.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2016.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council