

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

Minutes of the Meeting of December 20, 2011

Members:	N	O	S	A	J	J	M	A	M	F	J	D	Commissioners
Carolina Rendeiro	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	X	P	E	X	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
Nancy Sanabria	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	X	P	P	X	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera Jr.
Steve Edelstein	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	X	P	P	X	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk
Lourdes Cuzan	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	Mayor Jim Cason
David Duckenfield	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	Comm. Frank Quesada
Art DeNunzio	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	X	P	Patrick Salerno, City Manager
Paul Posnak	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

Ex Officio:

Business Affiliation:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Chairperson Carolina Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Nancy Sanabria to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2011. Paul Posnak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATES ON LA ANTIGUA GUATEMALA:

Ms. Sanabria says she is waiting for a reconfirmation but as of now Dunia Miranda-Mauro, the trade commissioner, and Doris Quezada, the Consul General of Guatemala are both coming on January 17th 2012 to the IACC board meeting. Ms. Sanabria wants to speak to the Consul General briefly and reiterate that the board does not have a budget so any activities will have to be funded by donations. Ms. Sanabria spoke with Caroline Parker at the museum, who mentioned that she had five great contacts that might be great sources of support for anything involving the Sister City of La Antigua. One of the contacts is Elizabeth Dowell with Antigua Tours. She owns a tourism company and is a published author on Antigua Culture. Another contact is Georgetta Young, she has a huge collection of contemporary art. Caroline Parker also offered to host an exhibit free of charge, although there may be some concerns with paying to insure the art work. The third contact is Miguel Bayo, who is an artist and lecturer. The fourth is Carlos Haz, the head of tourism in La Antigua and a public official who the board can reach out to for support, and finally Matt Boker who writes the Gables Home Page but lives in La Antigua. Ms. Sanabria said that's basically it but she will reach out to Dunia one more time before she comes in next month. Ms. Rendeiro mentions that there are no Guatemalan visitors coming on January 15th 2012.

PISA, ITALY:

Mr. DeNunzio met with Hank Langston last week who is the dean of faculty at Gulliver Schools. They discussed the upcoming "Good Morning Coral Gables" breakfast with the Chamber. Mr. Langston was in Italy recently and he met with the President of the University of Rome, Luigi Frati, and invited him to the breakfast. This contact would be good for the board in terms of education for all of our Sister Cities because Gulliver is a model school; it has a baccalaureate program and they teach seven languages. Mr. Langston was very interested in this concept. Mr. DeNunzio also cautioned him that before he publishes news of Mr. Frati's attendance to make sure he had a response and confirmation. The board is also invited to the breakfast, which takes place on April 19 at the Biltmore.

Ms. Rendeiro mentions that she had a very informal conversation with the Consul General of Italy at an event at the Miami Dade Culinary School. She discussed how we would like to consider the City, rather than the province of Pisa our Sister City, and he said he would help us with that after January 6. Ms. Rendeiro said she would consult with Mayor Cason as to whether such a technical change would have to go before the commission. Mr. Edelstein poses the question of whether we could add Pisa the city but still retain the relationship with the province. Ms. Cuzan suggests retaining the province as an emeritus relationship.

STATUS OF NEW SISTER CITIES

Ms. Rendeiro says the other Sister City paperwork is still being processed, and Orlando finally answered and gave the go-ahead to pursue Curitiba.

UPDATES ON AIX-EN-PROVENCE:

Mr. Edelstein attended meetings in Aix at the end of November. He said they are very anxious to do something in the coming spring to coincide with the museum events. They also wanted to respond to the Mayor's letter requesting items for the exhibit but needed more information. They basically requested specific descriptions of what kind of items to provide, including size and number of items. The people of Aix seem to be very engaged. All of the logistics need to be clarified before any art is sent over or any visitors come to visit. He asked the IACC if it would be alright to contact Caroline Parker and provide her with a copy of the Aix request regarding materials for the Museum, all members approved.

Ms. Rendeiro adds that if groups are brought in after the high season than the board can apply for grants through travel and tourism. They will help with insurance and provide funds for bringing tourism to south Florida during hurricane season. For hotel stays the board can look at the Biltmore, the Weston and the Hyatt Regency.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Posnak wants to get into the business of the IACC Board having no budget. He argues that given the acquisition of two new Sister Cities and this big event in the spring, maybe the board can get a budget approved by the commissioners and the Mayor for projects of great impact that will have value for the city. The board doesn't have to ask for large sums of money. Although there's nothing preventing the board from going to the commission Ms. Rendeiro is skeptical given the past lack of support for IACC events. Ms. Cuzan suggests that each board member talk to their appointing commissioners respectively to get a feel for where they stand before going directly in front of the commission.

UPDATES ON CARTAGENA DE INDIAS:

Ms. Cuzan met with various people from the Cartagena community. There will be a radio interview next week to discuss Coral Gable's relationship with Cartagena and garner support for the event.

POSSIBLE EVENT AT CINEMATEQUE

Mr. Posnak asks the board for input about possibly getting the Consulates involved in giving a series of presentations at the Cinemateque. Each one would present one or two films and maybe have a guest then we could have a reception afterwards at Books and Books. Some concerns are whether the cinema will be profiting, how best to connect with Consulates, whether the respective countries already have local film festivals, the size of the cinema, and whether there is any interest in the event. Overall the board seems to think it's doable once the concerns are addressed. They agree to further explore the idea.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Ms. Rendeiro received an e-mail from the Mayor and Evelyn regarding getting the word out about Sister Cities through advertising on the Disney Channel. There's a cost associated with it and she doesn't think this is where IACC dollars should be spent.

Mayor Cason received a letter from Doc Smith recommending that Coral Gables have a stronger relationship with Panama City, whether as a Friendship City or etc. Ms. Rendeiro says if we choose to do anything with Panama then the Port of Miami has funds for support. She notes that Miami and other port cities in the country have strong relations with Panama.

Ms. Cuzan asks if the City still promotes the Sister City program through the Coral Gables channel. The answer to her question is yes. Mr. Posnak asks about the status of Quebec. Ms. Rendeiro says we are just waiting on the final paperwork.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2012.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council