

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of June 21, 2016**

<b>Members:</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Commissioners</b>
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	-	E	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**  
**X = No Meeting**

**Staff in Attendance:**

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

**Guest:** Alma Kadragic, Chamber of Commerce liaison  
 Rafael Gavarrete, Resident

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Cuzan made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on May 17, 2016 and Mr. Monasterio seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan said the Mayor of Cartagena has committed to the Sister City program and has expressed interest that he would like to visit Coral Gables in September. Mayor Cason was originally going to visit Cartagena but the Mayor of Cartagena would like to come first. The Mayor would come September 7, 8, and 9. There will be a welcoming reception on September 7<sup>th</sup>. September 8<sup>th</sup> there will be business meetings for the delegation coming with the Mayor. Ms. Cuzan is going to speak with Mr. Trowbridge about pairings with the local businesses and the delegation. Ms. Cuzan said that the delegation is interested in visiting the port but they will be doing that on their own because there already is a

relationship with the County and Cartagena. September 9<sup>th</sup> they would be partaking in a trolley tour and a luncheon then they would have the afternoon off to shop and visit other parts of the City. Ms. Cuzan said that the budget would not include travel expenses. Mayor Cason suggested that the Foundation only pay for the Mayor's accommodations as well as the welcoming reception and the luncheon. Ms. Cuzan is working on a budget. Ms. Cuzan said that the delegation would be in charge of transportation to and from the airport as well as accommodations for the rest of the delegation. Ms. Cuzan said that there would be a second part to the visit at another time where they would have 25 firefighters from Cartagena come over to the Coral Gables fire station for training. She anticipates the firefighters coming before.

Mr. Edelstein asked if Ms. Cuzan could provide an itinerary for the Council. Ms. Cuzan said that they are still in the preliminary stages and once she has coordinated everything she will be sending an itinerary through Evelyn. Mr. Edelstein said that with whatever events needs funding the foundation would need a breakdown of what they will need to start considering the funds.

Ms. Rendeiro asked if Ms. Cuzan had a venue. Ms. Cuzan said she is planning on calling the Museum and the Consulate. She plans on getting together with Mr. Trowbridge after the meeting. Ms. Rendeiro said that the Chamber has its international meeting that the delegation can meet the international committee as well as the small business committee. Ms. Rendeiro will try to move the date so that it can coincide when the delegation is here. Ms. Cuzan said that she was looking for a Chamber event that should could piggy back off of so the delegation could meet. Ms. Rendeiro would have to know by the August 1<sup>st</sup> to coordinate the meetings at the Chamber. Ms. Cuzan said she would keep her posted. She is working with the Colombian Chamber of Commerce as well to coordinate everything.

Ms. Sanabria asked how many people would be making up the delegation. Ms. Cuzan said that she was waiting for a list from the Colombian Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Sanabria said that the Museum venue would be very nice. Mr. Monasterio pointed out that the Museum is conveniently across from the Colombian Consulate.

Ms. Cuzan said that there was an artist that wanted to donate a sculpture to Coral Gables from Cartagena. Ms. Cuzan said that she would like to bring him from New Orleans and they can do an art and sculpture program while the delegation is here. Ms. Sanabria asked if the sculpture would be part of the Art in Public Places Program. Ms. Cuzan said about a year ago he tried donating and that did not go through. Ms. Cuzan referred him over to the County for the Art in Public Places program.

Ms. Rendeiro asked if the September trip is in lieu of the August trip. Ms. Cuzan said yes. Ms. Cuzan also mentioned that Cartagena had asked about the election and what is going to happen if a new mayor comes in. Ms. Cuzan assured that the program would not be affected by a new mayor and would not be affected.

Ms. Cuzan said that she spoke with the Mayor about the firefighter program and they need to think about housing for the 20 firefighters once they come for the training. Ms. Cuzan asked for suggestion. Mr. Monasterio said if the firefighters from here could offer housing for them.

#### LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Ms. Sanabria said the Salisbury truck is still pending shipment. Ms. Sanabria said that they are working to coordinate the shipping. Ms. Sanabria said the shoring kits are still at the Homestead Air Base ready to load the truck onto the cargo plane. Ms. Sanabria said that the Mayor received a letter from the Mayor of

Antigua in gratitude for the trucks. Ms. Rendeiro said she would like to include the letter in the award packet being prepared by Ms. Sanabria for the International Sister Cities Conference.

Mr. Gavarrette said he has learned the truck has been very active and the firefighters as well as the community are very happy. Ms. Sanabria asked Mr. Gavarrete if he could take pictures the next time he goes. Mr. Gavarette said that the truck has been able to handle the situations that have presented themselves in La Antigua.

#### GRANADA, SPAIN:

Mr. Reyes said that there has been no update from Granada. Mr. Reyes said that they could discuss Avila and Santander. Ms. Rendeiro said that Mayor Cason is very interested in sorting out Granada and looking for other potential Sister Cities. Mr. Monasterio said that he met with the mayors of Santander and Avila. They had spoken about sending firefighters from Coral Gables to the cities to give them training. Mr. Monasterio said that Avila and Santander are looking for a true Sister City relationships not just on paper but they would like to see an active relationship before. Mr. Monasterio is going to meet with the Mayor again. Mr. Reyes said that we always forget law enforcement officers and how other countries like to be trained by them. Mr. Reyes said that that was another potential avenue to pursue with our police department. Mr. Rendeiro said that training on fraud, theft and terrorism is a serious problem in Spain that she is sure they would like to have training on.

Ms. Rendeiro said that it would be interesting in getting independent cyber tech companies that could help with this project. Ms. Rendeiro said that she could work on making a list. Ms. Sanabria said would they need to fund their trip. Ms. Rendeiro said no if they saw a business opportunity that would work on getting to Spain for business development. The City would have to fund the firefighters and law enforcement officers to go to Spain. They can even work with receiving a grant from the County.

Ms. Rendeiro said that for next meeting they can work on putting together an idea of what this may look like if they chose to proceed with this avenue. Mr. Edelstein asked when the Mayor will be available to attend an IACC meeting. Ms. Paz said she would coordinate with the Mayor's calendar so that he may attend a meeting.

#### QUEBEC, CANADA

Mr. Edelstein received a letter from Quebec stating that at this moment they do not wish to have a Sister City relationship with Coral Gables. Ms. Rendeiro stated that the Consul General of Canada is very upset about this and did not understand why they decided against a relationship. Mr. Edelstein said that they could look at other cities within Canada. Mr. Edelstein suggested Victoria or Saskatoon as potential Sister Cities in Canada.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Kadragic said last week the Chamber of Commerce hosted a delegation from Belarus that could serve as a model for the Cartagena delegation. They sent the delegation to the winery in Homestead, went to Bacardi because one of the gentleman was a vodka producer. Ms. Kadragic said that they met with 15 of the Chamber members and asked them what they would like to see from the Chamber. They went to a reception hosted by the Chamber. Ms. Kadragic said that the delegation was very happy with Coral Gables attention and hospitality.

Ms. Sanabria thanked Ms. Kadragic for helping write the application for the Sister Cities International Award. Ms. Kadragic asked when they would find out if they won. Ms. Rendeiro said that they would hear by Friday. Ms. Rendeiro said that the chances are very good of winning.

Ms. Rendeiro said she is ready to proceed with Aveiro, Portugal. She is planning on meeting with Mayor Cason to work on the letter to send to them. Aveiro currently only has one Sister City in North Jersey. Ms. Rendeiro said that Portugal has AICEP which goes around the world promoting Portuguese products. Ms. Rendeiro said that a Sister City relationship with Portugal will open communication with Northern Africa which is being heavily invested in. Ms. Rendeiro says that she would like to see Coral Gables one day have a relationship with a city in Northern Africa. Ms. Kadragic said that the Chinese government is heavily interested in Africa so there is a heavy opportunity for trade.

Ms. Rendeiro said that she has not heard anything from Pavia or the Italian Consulate.

Mr. Edelstein said that they have 3 solid Sister City relationships. Mr. Edelstein said we are still missing 4 of the 7. He said that they should look into Great Britain that does not have a language barrier. Mr. Edelstein said Scotland has a lot of city opportunities or Scandinavia. Ms. Rendeiro said she is not sure how they would connect to them other than Norway on medical items.

Ms. Rendeiro said that she is all for looking at the United Kingdom. She mentioned Brighton which is an hour outside of London. It is a coastal town. Cambridge is another possibility. Ms. Rendeiro said that California has strong relationships in Scotland and Ireland. Mr. Edelstein said that they can look at other cities in Italy.

Mr. Monasterio said that they can look into Norway. Mr. Monasterio also suggested Swakopmund in Namibia. Swakopmund is about the size of Coral Gables and a port city. Mr. Monasterio said they speak German, English and African.

Mr. Reyes mentioned Costa Rica. Ms. Rendeiro said that Costa Rica is a huge tech hub and is a huge trade partner with the United States.

Ms. Cuzan said that they can look into Australia. Mr. Edelstein said that he would be against it because they are too far. Ms. Rendeiro agreed that it was too far and that it is a different world and it functions with the eastern part of the world. Ms. Cuzan asked if there had been any talks about Dominica Republic. Ms. Rendeiro said that it is good business and culturally. Ms. Rendeiro said they need to look at countries that they are doing trade in.

Ms. Rendeiro said they need to clear the air on Italy and Spain. She said Spain is a definite place we need to have a Sister City in.

Ms. Kadragic said that maybe they are focusing too much on Italy or a rather part of Italy such as places in Eastern Europe such as Poland. Ms. Kadragic said that they could look into Belarus and Ukraine and Croatia. Mr. Edelstein said that they need to be aware of the politics of the region. Ms. Kadragic said that Belarus would be easiest to forge a relationship with. Ms. Rendeiro mentioned a city in Poland that is very large on film, tech and cultural programs. Mr. Edelstein mentioned Riga in Latvia.

Ms. Rendeiro asked for the Council to send city ideas to Ms. Paz to make a list can discuss for the next meeting. Ms. Rendeiro said that a port, education and cultural are very important to Coral Gables. Ms. Kadragic said if they should specialize in port cities. Ms. Rendeiro said that she would prefer a port city so that she can go to them and ask for their support with the Foundation. Ms. Rendeiro said that she would present them with all our port agreements and have them pledge a yearly contribution to the Foundation.

Ms. Cuzan asked who her point of contact was at the Chamber. Ms. Rendeiro said it would be Erica who will help Ms. Cuzan coordinate events.

Ms. Rendeiro said that at the Sister Cities Conference they will discuss who will host the 2018 Conference. Ms. Rendeiro said she is in line to be the President of Sister Cities for 2018-2019. Ms. Rendeiro said 5 cities applied or which 3 have already been eliminated. Coral Gables in one of the two left in the running. The Visitors Bureau and the Biltmore Hotel have been working on excellent rates as well very helpful. Ms. Rendeiro said that the City of Coral Gables, Economic Development, and Chamber of Commerce did letters as well as the Hotel Association and the Visitor's Letter, Beacon Council, and Port of Miami. There has been a strong community outreach. The City of Doral, City of Miami Beach and the City of Miami are in support of Coral Gables hosting the Conference.

Ms. Rendeiro said that everyone needs to fill out the financial disclosure form by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2016.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council