

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

Minutes of the Meeting of March 29, 2017

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Israel Reyes	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	X	P	Vice-Mayor Frank Quesada
Carolina Rendeiro	P	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	E	X	E	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Jeannett Slesnick
Steve Edelstein	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	E	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: Orestes Hernandez, Coral Gables Museum
 Caroline Parker, Coral Gables Museum

Ms. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Monasterio made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on February 21, 2017 and Ms. Cuzan seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

Ms. Sanabria said she had nothing new to report. However, Ms. Rendeiro said the invitation to the Mayor of La Antigua to participate in the World Strategic Forum was hand delivered by Ms. Miranda-Mauri. They are waiting for her confirmation to participate.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan said the delegation of Cartagena met with Coach Morris at the University of Miami, the Coral Gables Library, and the Coral Gables Fire Department. The Delegation enjoyed its meetings and was impressed. Ms. Cuzan has been in contact with his office at least once a week. The next project would be having the fire fighters from Cartagena visit the City for extrication training. Other long term projects include book donations from the library and inviting Coach Morris to visit Cartagena. Ms. Cuzan said the Mayor of Cartagena truly loves Cartagena and has a passion for the people. Ms. Cuzan has a meeting with the City Manager on April 6th to establish the guidelines for the extrication program.

Ms. Rendeiro said they should document what is being done with the extrication program so that it may be used for award purposes at the national level.

Ms. Cuzan said Cartagena is very interested on a fire truck donation if we have one available. Mr. Edelstein said he had met with Mayor Cason and there would be more fire trucks available and Cartagena would be receiving a truck once it became available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Monasterio said he reached out to Agave Holding in reference to Tequila. He has called and left messages and have not received a response. He asked the IACC for recommendations on how to proceed. Ms. Paz said she would set up a meeting with Ms. Rendeiro at their office. They would discuss the Foundation and Tequila.

Mr. Edelstein said there has been no update on Bath. Ms. Rendeiro said Europe is focused on Brexit right now. Mr. Edelstein said Scotland might be a better option. Mr. Edelstein said they tried with Bath because they are Sister Cities with Aix. At the time Mr. Edelstein met with them, they were interested but Coral Gables did not have any available openings for a new Sister City. However, now he has not been able to get through to anyone in Bath. If they can establish with Bath that City of Coral Gables already has a relationship with Aix, it could open that door.

Ms. Rendeiro advised Mayor Cason and her would be going to Portugal to sign the agreement to become Sister Cities with Aveiro.

Ms. Rendeiro said they received a request from Sisli, Istanbul to be Sister Cities. It is a very affluent part of Istanbul. Ms. Rendeiro said she has actually been there and it feels like the Coral Gables of Istanbul. It is a cultural center full of museums, shopping centers, and universities. It offers opportunity for business exchanges. Their population is around 200,000. There is more information to follow. The IACC Board felt that they should look into this opportunity. Ms. Sanabria motioned to look into relations with Sisli, Istanbul. Mr. Monasterio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

In reference to new sister cities, Ms. Cuzan said during the time Cartagena's Delegation visited they spoke mentioned a music festival that is hosted every January. One of the cities that participated in the music festival is a city in Italy. Ms. Cuzan said it might be an interesting connection for our Sister City program. Ms. Cuzan is planning to reach out through the Mayor of Cartagena to make the connection.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Rendeiro said the registration for the World Strategic Forum registration will be going out the first week in April. The registration fee is \$225 which includes the luncheon, the conference, and reception at Bulla. The IACC Board would receive tickets to attend the events April 20th. The Sister City component will be April 20th at 4:30PM-6:00PM. Mayor Cason would also be speaking on this day. Ms. Paz asked when the deadline was to notify Ms. Rendeiro is the board members would be able to attend. Ms. Rendeiro said she would send Ms. Paz the link to RSVP. Ms. Paz would send it out to the board. Ms. Rendeiro said to notify her by the second week of April. ITC, Miami Beach, City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, and Broward County Alliance and their sister city boards have been invited.

Ms. Rendeiro advised Sister Cities Conference registration is now open. The Conference will take place in Virginia Beach in July.

Ms. Paz advised that the Board members who will be termed out this year due to the election will serve in their capacity until the Commission appoints a new board member.

The Foundation's tax exemption status has been renewed.

Mr. Oreste Hernandez, Development Director and Ms. Caroline Parker for the Coral Gables Museum joined the meeting to discuss the Museum and the International Hall. Ms. Parker wanted to share the plans for International Hall. For this coming season September 2017- August 2018. Ms. Parker said the purpose of the room is to celebrate Coral Gables Sister Cities and international outreach to help position Coral Gables as an International City and celebrate cultural diversity. Ms. Parker said the Museum would like to keep that room celebrating all these items as per the agreement. However, after five and a half years the exhibit is a little stale. With the purpose of keeping good energy at the Museum, keeping visitors engaged, and members engaged that have already seen the exhibit, Ms. Parker believes it is time to freshen the room up and start some exciting dynamic program.

The Museum has planned an international artist series. The series entails inviting international artist from our Sister Cities as well as other cities where Coral Gables has other relationships with such as educational, cultural, business, and developmental. It could also include potential Sister Cities where relations would like to be furthered. The artists would be invited for a 3-4 month exhibits in that space. The room is 600 square feet and historical. It possesses challenges for artist to hang their art because of their historic nature, however, nothing that cannot be overcome. The artist would have the opportunity to have a solo exhibition, which would provide a contemporary installation in the room. The conference table would still be in the room so that meetings can still be hosted in the room. Ms. Parker would like to reenergize the room and bring light to the Sister Cities program in a new way. Ms. Parker would like the blessing of the IACC board to move forward with the exhibit. Ms. Parker expressed her love for the room since she was the one to curate it. Ms. Parker said the room was never intended to be permanent.

Ms. Parker mentioned Jose Rosa Pot ran from the Rosa Pot ran Foundation which has a huge collection of contemporary art. She plans on meeting with him to show him the space. He has the potential for bring Latin American art to the Museum. Ms. Parker has also spoken to another artist from Paris who is an excellent contemporary artist. This artist lives in Paris however was born in Venezuela to French parents. She visits Coral Gables once a year. Carol Damion has offered to curate the room. Another artist, who is

now deceased, is Jose Antonio Murado from Andalusia. His estate, which is managed by his daughter, has a mission of continuing his legacy. Mr. Murado's art is very sought after and displayed all over the world. The artist would be present for two to three weeks. Be present for a members preview reception, programing, collaboration with the IACC when there is a Sister City connection.

Ms. Rendeiro said Sister City International as a whole is looking at sustainability, educational programs, and economic development and how those relationships have benefitted the countries and the cities. Ms. Rendeiro said this program would have to go to the City Manager and the City Commission for their input. Ms. Parker said she did not believe so because they are allowed to curate items that continue with the theme and purpose of the room as they see fit. Ms. Parker said this is just one concept.

Mr. Edelstein said the room has a display for all our Sister Cities. However, some of those cities are emeritus at the present. Mr. Edelstein suggested Ms. Parker keep one or two items from the countries in the current exhibit that they could continue to display. Contact Sister Cities for new items that could be changed every couple of months. They could also display things that are manufactured in those cities to show economic development. Ms. Parker said the exhibit is not just focused on art. It includes textiles and coffee bags from cities. Mr. Edelstein said the room could include an artist from Sister City artists but the room is intended to be a research facility with the archives upstairs. Ms. Parker said the room is not physically connected to the archives; you would have to leave the room to access the archives. In addition, the library that contains the books from Sister City can stay and continue to be utilized as a research room. Ms. Parker said the room has not been utilized because no one was really using the research tools unless there were guided educational tours in which the book case would be opened and utilized. Ms. Parker said after five years she is in a position where she has to adapt and realize the room is not being used for those purposes. Mr. Edelstein said the Museum's newsletter does not make the public and schools know the room available for research purpose and contains the City's archives. Ms. Parker said the room is on the newsletter, on printed brochures, and on the website. Mr. Edelstein said one of the problem is perception. He said when people look at the Museum's website they are looking at what is going on now. They are not looking back looking for what else in the museum. They are looking for something specific. Guests should be told directly the Museum as a research facility.

Ms. Sanabria said she feels the component that is missing is the guided tours. When you go into the room you need someone to take you around because it has so many components. It should be an interactive experience. Ms. Sanabria prefers to have artist from Sister Cities visit the museum rather than just international artists. They can have people give speeches and lectures about our Sister Cities. Ms. Sanabria said would the Foundation have to provide financial support. Ms. Parker said the Museum would cover all the installation costs, they would look into having hotel sponsors. The IACC would be responsible for program partnership like wanting to host an event on another topic that coordinates with the art display.

Ms. Cuzan said in the past they have had challenges scheduling events, meetings, or exhibits because of conflicts with the Museum's program. When the IACC has wanted to bring in artists or host events the space has been unavailable. The room has not been accessible. Ms. Parker said she disagreed because that has only happened very few times. The majority of the time is a yes. The other larger spaces such as the community meeting room and court yard are usually rented out and could pose conflicts. Ms. Cuzan said she was referring to Cartagena events where the space was unavailable.

Ms. Sanabria asked how many people fit in parent hall. Ms. Parker said 30-60 people could fit in the space; it is why the overflow usually goes to the courtyard and other spaces. Ms. Parker said overflow could be accommodated to gallery 109 or the courtyard. Ms. Sanabria asked if the Museum is hosting an event could the IACC host an event at the same time. Ms. Parker said it depends on which event is taking place. Smaller events taking place in another wing would allow for multiple events to be going on. However, larger events, like Artopia, would be cause confusion to host at the same time.

Ms. Sanabria asked if the intent would be to preserve the existing display. Ms. Parker said no. The objects being displayed belong to the City of Coral Gables. Objects that are not being displayed are upstairs in the City's archives. The objects on display would go to the City's archives. The furniture and any image panels would continue to be used. Ms. Sanabria asked if there was a way digitize the archives and bring the archives downstairs to be displayed. Ms. Parker said they could but there is no budget for a project like that and the archives are the City's property. Ms. Sanabria asked if it could be considered if there is a budget. The City would have to do that. Ms. Sanabria asked how it would be accessed. Ms. Parker said there is a door on Salzedo Street and they would be buzzed upstairs. Ms. Parker said there is not much interest in the archives. Ms. Parker said they will continue to let the visitors know about the archives and that they exist through their printed brochures and on the website. The book archives are part of the Museum and would still be there. There could be a virtual iPad to look at the archives but that is a large project.

Ms. Sanabria said would there be a natural progression from the room upstairs to the archives. Would the Museum be able to have a guided tour. Ms. Parker said five years ago when the exhibit first opened she promoted it to schools and many student groups did come out. However, there has not been many adult's interest. Ms. Parker said serving 30 students a year is not really making the impact that the Sister City program deserves or the Museum deserves.

Mr. Edelstein suggested for the IACC could think about this item individually and could come back with more suggestions. At the next meeting it could be discussed further. Ms. Rendeiro said one of her concerns is the room is to showcase the City of Coral Gables' Sister Cities. When artists from other countries, who are not related to our Sister Cities, are being displayed it creates confusion. Ms. Rendeiro would like to get the rest of the board to give their input on this item. She asked to have the item readdressed April 18th. Ms. Rendeiro asked if the process has already started, specifically, if contracts have already been formed. She also asked if they were coming to the Board for an opinion or was this already finalized. Ms. Parker said she believed this is Museum decision as long as they are in line with the purpose of the space. The parent monies were given through Mayor Don Slesnick, who was the representative of the Coral Gables Community Foundation. Ms. Parker said she would be meeting with him later that day to speak about the future of the space. The wording of the contract is going to be sent to Ms. Paz. Ms. Parker does not have a contract on the space. She came to the IACC as a courtesy. She said it is still early on. Ms. Parker said this is the initial concept that believes it is overdue.

Mr. Edelstein said it could be tied together if the artists displaying their art were from the City's Sister Cities. Ms. Parker said she would like to continue being a good partner and would love to host events. Ms. Rendeiro asked if there a way to know when the available is booked. Ms. Parker said it is constantly changing. The best way to book a room is to call her and she will book it on the spot.

Ms. Rendeiro said she includes this item on the agenda of the April 18th meeting.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2017.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council