

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

Minutes of the Meeting of May 20, 2014

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

Business Affiliation:

Frances Reaves = Excused

Chamber of Commerce liaison

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

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guest:

Craig Leen, City Attorney
Christine Rupp, Director of the Coral Gables Museum
Claudio Pastor, Executive Director of the Societa' Dante Alighieri
Valarie Sutter, Coral Gables – Resident
Dr. Enrique Monasterio, Coral Gables – Resident

Chairperson Ms. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ms. Sanabria to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 15, 2014. Mr. Edelstein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Ms. Sanabria was able to attend the Museum event discussed in April's meeting minutes and was able to deliver a speech about her trip and about the role of the Coral Gables IACC and the Sister Cities Int'l Program. She also presented a proposal from certain business people of Antigua entitled Reinventando La Antigua Guatemala desde los Ciudadanos, distributing copies to those who expressed an interest. Ms. Sanabria mentions that the proposal was recently presented to the mayor and the council members in Antigua by those business people and they said that the Mayor and Council gave the proposal their full blessings. Antigua is looking for feedback and collaboration from the IACC and the business people of

Coral Gables who could be of resource. Ms. Sanabria is trying to get at least one representative to come to Coral Gables. She brought a copy of the proposal and gives each other Board members a copy.

Ms. Sanabria is excited about the possibility of showing the film *La Camioneta* at the Museum. Mr. Posnak says Mr. Nandi at the University of Miami may be able to help with the proposal given that he is the director of Engineering.

PAVIA, ITALY:

Mr. DeNunzio has the agreement; He wants to know if there is a way to copy the agreement and disseminate it. Ms. Paz explains that the Board is waiting on the actual size and that would be disseminated upon arrival.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE:

Mr. Edelstein did not have any updates regarding Aix-en-Provence. However, he addressed the question posed about the \$800.00 fee that was said to be “blocking” the 501c3 tax exempt status application. Mr. Edelstein says he spoke to Dr. Andy Gomez about the application who is working on developing expenses and revenue projections. He says the bank account is also not complete but that he was going to go speak to the banker after the meeting.

Mr. Edelstein says that he wanted to bring up that David Duckenfield is no longer with the Board and that it may involve Paul Posnak. Mr. Edelstein says he does not know if there has been communication with Commissioner Quesada. Ms. Sutter says that she has submitted her resume to Commissioner Quesada but that she has not heard back. Ms. Rendeiro spoke to Commissioner Quesada who said he was already meeting someone. Mr. Posnak says Ms. Sutter would be a good member to select given that she lives in Aix-en-Provence.

CARTAGENA COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan says there isn't much going on. Ms. Cuzan says that she is working with the University of Miami and the dance group from Cartagena who is going to perform in Boston and Chicago. She is trying to book at the University of Miami to have the dancers perform here as well. Ms. Cuzan says that depending on the requirements of the dance group and the director, the University will give more information.

MUSEUM USE OF SISTER CITY NAME:

City Attorney Craig Leen explains that the Museum has been having a number of events and exhibits related to the Sister City Program that are not officially related to the Sister City Program. Mr. Leen explains that the Museum has not brought in the board on these events and that is a concern. Mr. Leen discusses that there some emails going back and forth on the issue and he wants to note that you have to be very careful with emails. He explains that under the Sunshine Law you can send an email one way to a large group but no one is allowed to respond. If someone wants to respond to an email of that sort, proper protocol would be to call Evelyn and have her set it for the next agenda. Mr. Leen says there was nothing in the emails that was secret on the material.

Mr. Edelstein says that he only sent the email to Evelyn with directions to disseminate it. He explains that it was his understanding that under the Sunshine Law he could send an email to Evelyn and have her disseminate it, including to the public.

Mr. Pastor explains that Mr. Edelstein's email was found highly offensive by the Italian Consulate and has created a great deal of problems. He says that fine lines need to be respected when dealing with International issues and that there were lines crossed in Mr. Edelstein's email which should not have been crossed. Mr. Pastor says that the language in that email was inappropriate for someone who is appointed by a City Leader or commissioner and it reflects poorly on the board and it reflects poorly on the City of Coral Gables. The Italian consul told Mr. Pastor that a letter would be sent to the Mayor and the Commissioner that appointed Mr. Edelstein.

Mr. Leen said that there was a problem with Mr. Edelstein's email going to the Italian consulate and tries to bring the discussion back to that issue.

Mr. Edelstein inquires about what email. He says that he did not mean to insult anybody, that he was merely giving an opinion. Mr. Pastor says that the language and the tone was inappropriate and that Mr. Edelstein should know that. Mr. Leen says that he feels that there is a lot of frustration from the board because it feels it is being circumvented. Mr. Edelstein says that the Board is the City; that each member is appointed by a commissioner or city manager or the Board itself. Mr. Edelstein says that he has a great respect for the Italian consulate and that he has helped the Italian consulate throughout the years on a pro bono basis. He says that he meant no insult besides perhaps that there may be someone the consul general must contact and overview his own staff to make sure the consulate does not circumvent the City of Coral Gables.

The Board exclaims in unison that no one in the city was informed about what was being presented to the Mayor. The Mayor learned of the agreement with Pavia the night before he signed it. Mr. Edelstein says that when they found out they responded that way. He says that his email was merely his opinion about the matter; he says that it is not the first time that the Board is cut out of communications.

Mr. Pastor says that the consul general does not even know the role of the Board. He says that the Board needs to define itself. He says that the powers and functions are not clear. He tells Mr. Edelstein to put the mission and powers of the IACC in the email. Mr. Edelstein says it's not that difficult to understand; he also tells Mr. Pastor that the Board is appointed by the commission, for any such statement to come out it would have to be an official statement approved by the City Attorney, the City Manager and the Commission.

Ms. Rupp says that whenever the Museum puts on an event it invites all the Board members and she expresses that the allegation that the Museum is circumventing the Board is incorrect. Ms. Rupp says that they have an unofficial relationship with the Board and that the Museum would love nothing more than to have members of the committee attend events at the Museum.

Ms. Cuzan said that perhaps the Board is frustrated because the governments elsewhere are not aware of how the Board functions. Ms. Cuzan said that the foreign governments are more likely to contact the Museum, but that at that point, the Museum ought to bring in the Board.

Ms. Rupp says that the Museum has a gallery for Sister Cities specifically that Mayor Slesnick put into place. Ms. Rupp asks how the Board would like things to be presented to them. She says the Museum is basically done with Sister Cities until the Fall.

Ms. Rendeiro says no one knew that the agreement for Pavia was going to be signed. The City could have and should have done a press release on the matter.

Ms. Cuzan says the Board has rules and regulations and gives a tentative protocol to be followed. She says any open relationships should be Mayor to Mayor only. She says that if one of the Sister Cities

contacts the Museum, it is important that the Museum contact the Board from the beginning, not as an afterthought. Ms. Cuzan says that the Museum must contact Evelyn directly and then Evelyn will contact the Board members.

Ms. Sanabria says that there have been programs that the Board and the Museum worked well on together from the beginning.

Mr. Leen says that the Board can devise a mission statement that it is within their purview. He says that he would be willing to see the mission statement if the Board wanted that. As long as it is within their powers the Board does not need to submit it to the commission. Mr. Leen also says he took a look at the Board's by-laws and he says that they can do events with the Museum as long as the event does not involve a for-profit entity.

Mr. Pastor says that the plans for the visit from Pavia to sign the agreement and hold an event at the Museum had been going on for months. He says that there were communications with the Mayor's office for months. Mr. Pastor says that the Board needs to approach the consulates; the Board must make the concerted effort to contact the consulates regularly. The consulates are not going to come to the city for permission.

Ms. Rendeiro says that the Board is savvy; she says that the problem is the communication. Ms. Rendeiro tells Ms. Rupp that it is important that she call them and let them know from the beginning. Ms. Cuzan tells Ms. Rupp that the protocol is meant to strengthen the relationships between the cities, not to micromanage. Mr. Edelstein says that the Board is part of Sister Cities International. Mr. Edelstein says that the Sister Cities International has proprietary rights to the term Sister City; he says that the Museum does not have the right to use the name without clearing it with the Board. Ms. Rendeiro confirms that the term "Sister Cities" has been trademarked.

Mr. Pastor says that the Board should advise their respective countries after every meeting of the positive and negative matters brought up during the meeting related to their respective countries. The consulates should also provide ideas from their own cultural centers. The Board agrees to sponsor the Museum's events. Mr. Edelstein says that Ms. Rupp, and her assistants are welcome to come to the meetings.

Coral Gables International Festival of the Arts:

Mr. Posnak says that there have been changes to what he sent to the Board. Mr. Posnak says that on the proposal page on line three, everything should have been lowercase. He says to take out the definite article on the following line for clarity. Ms. Rendeiro asked about the budget. She asks about how much it will cost for seating. Mr. Posnak says he spoke to Ms. Rupp for the fees. Ms. Rupp said to him that they contract with a company who brings them their chairs and set them out for \$300.

Mr. Edelstein says that the word "per" should be emphasized. Mr. Posnak wants to use the museum's two big main rooms for the festival. He says there may be an outdoor event, but that it is a secondary idea depending on the sister city in question. Mr. Posnak says that the main venue will be the museum. He says he spoke to Steve Krams about the cinema and he would provide a nominal rental fee if the Board wanted to rent it out. Mr. Posnak says he could have movies, lectures or even music. Mr. Posnak says that Books & Books is also an ancillary venue. The Board suggests that Mr. Posnak include the alternate venues in the budget.

Ms. Rendeiro says that she believes that the problem is the sponsorships; that she does not foresee that the commissioners would be comfortable sponsoring individuals coming to the cities and putting these individuals up for the festival. Ms. Sanabria says that it would be a good idea to have a European country to bring musicians in. She wants to meet with Ms. Posnak and another woman to discuss the musicians

for the festival. The Board discusses marketing materials being produced and sold to offset costs. Mr. Posnak says they are trying to focus on two specific sister cities at the festival. All the sister cities are supposed to be represented, but specifically two. Mr. Posnak says he is at a loss about cuisine. He did not budget for the cuisine at the Biltmore, Marriot or Museums, etc. because he did not know. Ms. Rendeiro tells him he'd have to pay ahead. However, Mr. Edelstein suggests that local restaurants provide the cuisine rather than have the Board do so similar to Miami Spice. Mr. Posnak asks for help with that so that he can have a budget presentable for the commissioners.

Announcement:

Ms. Rendeiro wants to bring the Sister Cities Conference to the City of Coral Gables in 2016 which is always held during July. She has engaged our community to bring the conference to the City for 2016.

Curitiba is going to occur in the Fall. The Coral Gables Chamber and the Mayor will be looking at the dates for Curitiba, but Curitiba and Quebec City are now official Sister Cities. She would like to have the unveiling during the jazz festival in Quebec City in April. Curitiba would have to be an earlier date, but not in August. Ms. Rendeiro said that she will be in Istanbul in June. The Board pushes back the next meeting date.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2014.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council