

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of January 24, 2017**

<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	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Israel Reyes	P	E	P	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	P	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:**

Rafael Gavarrete, Resident  
 Alma Kadragic, Chamber of Commerce liaison

Ms. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on December 20, 2016 and Mr. Monasterio seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan said that the music festival and art festival is currently going on so there has been no communication. Ms. Rendeiro said Sister City International has asked the mayor of Cartagena to participate on a panel for their conference in April. Ms. Rendeiro made the formal request to the mayor’s office in Cartagena to participate at the World Strategic Forum to discuss sea level rise and the impact of Sister Cities and entrepreneurship and economic development. Ms. Cuzan asked to be kept informed to see if they respond.

Ms. Paz said Mayor Cason would travel to Cartagena if they are still interested in having him visit. Ms. Cuzan said she has tried to call and discuss their proposal but there has been no feedback. Ms. Cuzan said she would continue to contact Cartagena.

#### AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Mr. Anding said he has not received a response from Aix-En-Provence regarding the meeting with their fire department on the extrication program.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Monasterio said he suggested to Mayor Cason two cities in Ecuador. However, the Mayor thought the current government might pose a challenge for a relationship.

Mr. Monasterio asked if we should work on a relationship with Tequila, Mexico. Mr. Edelstein said when the foundation was formed, one of the contributors was Agave. At that time, Mr. Edelstein had discussion with one of the executives who gave him updates on Tequila. They are rebuilding the city to what it was historically. Mr. Edelstein said they would like to have some sort of relationship with the City of Coral Gables. Mr. Edelstein said last year members of the City went to Tequila to visit. Mr. Edelstein contacted the executives at Agave to discuss a relationship but never received a response. Mr. Anding asked if there had been contacts with the Consulate of Mexico about a Sister City relationship. Mr. Monasterio said he did not believe that they had been contacted yet. Ms. Rendeiro said they would contact the Consulate after the Board voted to proceed into exploring a relationship with Tequila. Mr. Monasterio made the motion to work on a Sister City relationship with Tequila. Mr. Anding seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Rendeiro said the size of Tequila and their history would fit right into the program. Ms. Rendeiro said the next step would be to contact the Consulate-General of Mexico and receive their support. Ms. Paz said she would provide the contact information for Tequila.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Rendeiro said Sister Cities will be at the World Strategic Forum on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Biltmore Hotel. Ms. Rendeiro said it will be a great event and an opportunity to showcase Sister Cities. The tickets are \$225 for both dates for the IACC Board members. The ticket price also includes a lunch. Ms. Rendeiro said Governor Rick Scott as well as Mayor Gimenez will be attending. Mayors from Sister Cities will also be in attendance speaking about the impact of Sister Cities and the impact entrepreneurship has on the economy.

Ms. Rendeiro said she was in Washington DC for the Ambassador's Gala. Ms. Rendeiro said there were conflict in scheduling and Ambassadors were unable to attend. Ms. Rendeiro said there were a lot of CEOs present at the gala. Slovenia was honored. Ms. Rendeiro said she met with the UN Ambassador.

Ms. Rendeiro said when Mary Young was treasurer of the Foundation, the University of Miami applied for a grant. The grant required a Sister City component. Ms. Rendeiro met with the UM director and the Mayor to discuss what type of relationship they would like to establish. The grant was approved. She would like to take it to the national organization. They will have the opportunity for 3-4 students in international studies and communication from UM create a strategic plan on the new model of Sister Cities outreach on corporate America since funding will be cut. The strategic plan would include interviews with the Board, major corporations on their outreach government responsibility groups and community outreach. The program will be 6 weeks. There will be 2 professors overseeing the project. Ms. Rendeiro will be the liaison and contact person. Ms. Rendeiro will be meeting with them February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and outline where as an organization we should be looking at, what issues we should be tackling, how to raise funding. The cost is \$10,000. Ms. Rendeiro will be strategizing on how to fundraise for the

Foundation. Ms. Rendeiro asked the Board to be open and tell the interviewers what they think about our engagement and tackling issues. Ms. Rendeiro said that this opportunity could open doors with the University of Miami. We will be able to apply for an award with Sister Cities International for this initiative. A motion for the IACC Board to accept and support the efforts with the University of Miami in creating a strategic plan for Sister Cities International. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rendeiro will be traveling to Spain and Portugal in February. She will be in Aveiro, Portugal to finalize the Sister Cities relationship. She is requesting a letter from Mayor Cason to present the Mayor of Aveiro with.

The meeting for March 21<sup>st</sup> will be rescheduled for Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Edelstein said Ms. Rendeiro and his seats will be vacant after the elections in April because they will have termed out. Mr. Edelstein asked the board to think of potential candidates to join the board. Ms. Rendeiro asked to make sure the recommended candidates were truly engaged. Mr. Edelstein said it would serve as potential candidates to the upcoming elected officials to appoint.

Ms. Kadragic said the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce was able to put the new flags up on Ponce with the donations they collected from some of the Consulates. The Chamber will be travelling to Tallahassee to lobby the legislators. Mr. Anding said the Global Business Committee has started a new series that will bring a consul-general to present on their new initiatives. The first presenter will be the Consul General of Germany on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Kadragic said the focus of this new program will be on the new consul generals. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 8AM at the Chamber of Commerce office.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2017.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council