

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of December 20, 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>
Lourdes Cuzán	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P
Israel Reyes	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	X	P
Carolina Rendeiro	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	X	P
Nancy Sanabria	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	X	E
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	X	P
Steve Edelstein	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	E
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P

**Commissioners**  
 Mayor Jim Cason  
 Vice-Mayor Frank Quesada  
 Comm. Patricia Keon  
 Comm. Vince Lago  
 Comm. Jeannett Slesnick  
 Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark,  
 City Manager  
 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  
 Norma Gavarrete, Special Projects Coordinator

Ms. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on October 18, 2016 and Ms. Cuzan seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan said that she would like to propose new dates for Mayor Cason to travel to Cartagena. Ms. Paz said because of the elections coming up the time frame would have to be between January thru March. Ms. Paz said she would work on dates for Ms. Cuzan to propose to Cartagena.

## AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Mr. Anding said that his counterpart in Aix sent him an email explaining he will be meeting with their chief of fire to go over the extrication proposal in January. The counterpart said their business delegation will not be available to travel to Coral Gables. However, they welcomed a Coral Gables delegation travel to Aix.

Mr. Anding said the General Manager of the Bach Society met with Mayor Cason. Mayor Cason had agreed to sign a letter of support of the plan of the Bach Society have an exchange with the Aix. Ms. Paz said she would follow up with her office to check on the status.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Gavarrete asked which other countries would be interested in participating at the Farmer's Market. The market will run from January 14<sup>th</sup> thru March 25<sup>th</sup>. Last year, La Antigua's booth had a great turnout. Ms. Cuzan said she would like Cartagena, Colombia to participate. Ms. Gavarrete will be sending the application for a booth. She inquired if Cartagena would be interested in hosting a cooking workshop like La Antigua is planning. Ms. Rendeiro said to get ProColombia involved.

Ms. Rendeiro asked Mr. Anding if they could reach out to Aix to see if they would be willing to participate. Mr. Anding said it would be difficult because the Consul General is on vacation and comes back in early January so they would not be able to participate in the January farmer's markets—maybe in February or March. Ms. Rendeiro said she would like to see Aix.

Ms. Gavarrete said she would send Ms. Paz the applications for the cooking workshop and booth. Ms. Paz said she would also forward to the Italian Consul General and Spanish Consul General.

Ms. Rendeiro said they needed to plan when the Mayor will be traveling to Aveiro to welcome it as a Sister City since it has been approved. Ms. Rendeiro said that a date in February would work best so that the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce can participate and can attend the economic development conference taking place in Barcelona. Ms. Paz said she would work on dates for the Mayor to travel to Portugal.

Mr. Monasterio said he has been looking at two potential sister cities in Ecuador. Loja is larger in population than Coral Gables. Cuenca has a university and UNESCO protected center. Mr. Monasterio was unsure about how many sister cities these cities have. He estimates Cuenca has one or two and Loja doesn't have any. Ms. Rendeiro said that the problem with Ecuador has been Quito and their government did not want to be Sister Cities anymore with us. Mr. Monasterio believes Cuenca will be more feasible than Quito was.

Ms. Rendeiro said for the upcoming meeting in January they look at new sister cities. Mr. Reyes suggested cities in Costa Rica. Mr. Reyes said he would reach out to family there for city recommendations. Mr. Anding asked if they would have to formally discontinue their relationship with Quito or could they stay as emeritus. Ms. Rendeiro said they could stay as emeritus.

Ms. Rendeiro said Aveiro is now a sister city. She has been speaking to them about the extrication program. She hopes to take someone from the police or fire department or have someone from Aveiro visit. Aveiro is known as the Venice of Portugal. There is a great university specializing in medical technology. Ms. Rendeiro said the city is very traditional and still uses hand-crafted gondolas every day to collect seaweed. Ms. Rendeiro is hoping that the fire department and police department will help the relationship flourish with the extrication program. Ms. Rendeiro said the NATO air force base is located close to Aveiro, Portugal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Rendeiro has been working with the University of Miami through Sister Cities International. The University's Center for International Business Entrepreneurship and Research received a grant from Sister Cities International that allows the IACC to work with the University on Sister City Events. Ms. Rendeiro is working with the University to plan the World Strategic Forum that will take place in April at the Biltmore Hotel. More information is to follow after the holidays.

Mr. Anding asked what would be the objective of the University working with Sister Cities. Ms. Rendeiro explained it would be education on the work force and economic development. It is cross referencing Colombia and their program with the University of Miami. This would lead to an award that will take into account the extrication program.

January 17<sup>th</sup> the Ambassadors Gala will be taking place in Washington DC. The event will take place at the OAS building.

The January 17<sup>th</sup> IACC meeting will need to be reschedule the meeting because of the Gala and Commission meetings. The Board agreed to reschedule the next meeting for January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2017.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council