

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

Minutes of the Meeting of March 17, 2009

MEMBERS:

Stephen McGaughey
Michelle Moskowitz
Ray Airan
John Carpenter
Luba DeWitt
Art DeNunzio
Carolina Rendeiro

F J D N O S A J J M A M COMMISSIONERS:

P	X	P	X	P	A	X	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
P	X	P	P	E	P	X	P	P	P	E	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
A	X	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
P	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	Mayor Don Slesnick
P	X	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
P	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	David Brown, City Manager
P	X	E	E	E	E	X	P	P	P	P	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

EX-OFFICIO:

Ricardo Taño, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce / Vice Chair, International Committee

GUESTS:

Robin Ford Wells, Cindy Wilson-Hyde, Marina Elvira Ortegon, Representatives with Children's International Holiday Workshop program
Luis Orozco, Vice consul General of the Colombian office in Miami

STAFF:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, International Affairs Coordinator

Chair Carolina Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

Motion was made by Steve McGaughey to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 17th, 2009 as submitted. Motion was seconded by John Carpenter. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rendeiro introduces guest speaker, Robin Ford Wells and her two partners, from Children's International Holiday Workshop.

Ms. Wells works with Gulliver Schools and has an annual (non fundraising) educational event called "The Children's International Holiday Workshop", where children from prek - 4th grades shop for items from .25 to \$5.00 for others - not themselves. She goes on to explain that there is an international museum of "holiday tradition" from around the world. They learn about Responsibility, Independence, and Giving. She informs that last years event was amazing and very successful.

Ms. Wells would like to set up a virtual link between two schools having this "International Holiday Workshop" live from Gulliver in Coral Gables, and live with a "Sister City". We would make sure the time difference coincides between the hours of 9am and 2pm. The program's IT department is ready to move in and send packages so the children could use free tools over the internet collaboratively and do projects. The program would be proceeding with a bilingual Holiday book.

Ms. Rendeiro stated that it sounded like a great project and perhaps the Chamber could help promote the workshop. Then she stated which countries would best benefit from this workshop, Cartagena, Quito, La Antigua. Cartagena would be the first city that they would approach since this year's first outreach mission has them set to arrive in April 2009.

Members of the IACC thanked Robin Ford Wells and her partners for their presentation.

Ms. Rendeiro goes back to item 2 of old business on the agenda, reach out to Mayor's office in Granada, to discuss the statue dedication but we still have not received word. **(Item tabled)**

Ms. Rendeiro informed board members that our sister cities program must have recognition. She goes on to explain that each member will choose from our sister cities a country they would like to be the liaison. Then we would follow seeing if there is an interest in opening communications.

Ms. Rendeiro states that she received a contact from the Mayor that Marie Pachetna has interest in Pisa, and would like to be kept informed of any Sister City activities.

Mr. Carpenter stated he would be able to take Cartagena.

Mr. McGaughey stated he would take La Antigua.

Mr. DeNunzio stated he would take Pisa.

Mayor's office would be in charge of Quito.
Granada and Aix-en-Provence (?).

Ms. Rendeiro expresses to all board members how we should all volunteer.

Colombia Sister Cities Mission

Ms. Rendeiro states how they have been working with the Colombian Consulate for the upcoming mission to Colombia. The Mayor of both cities have been contacted. The mission currently has 15 people signed up for the trip. The Mayor is only going to be present for the last portion of the Sister City mission.

On the morning of April 24, 2009 the Mayors will have their meeting and exchange gifts. That afternoon they will have a networking luncheon and meet with officials for business exchange. We expect this to be a great mission.

Flight information:

Avianca \$280.00 round trip

Packages are available

Ms. Rendeiro introduced Luis Orozco with the Colombian Consulate in Coral Gables. Mr. Orozco said how excited the Mayor's office is with this mission and the opportunities in Cartagena. Ms. Orozco offered his services for future needs and stated that a lot of changes have happened in the past few years in Colombia and there have been many people investing in Colombia. He also informed the members that this would be a big opportunity for cultural, Mayor to Mayor meetings and business opportunities.

Members of the IACC thanked Luis Orozco for all his assistance.

Ms. Rendeiro moved forward with the Miami-Dade County Sister City Summit, scheduled for April 24th, in downtown in the Clark government center. Please plan to attend.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:30a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council