

DRAFT

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

Minutes of the Meeting of January 31, 2008

MEMBERS:

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

	F	M	A	M	J#	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
Stephen McGaughey	P	A	X	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	X	P
Michelle Moskowitz	E	P	X	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	X	P
Ray Airan	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P
John Carpenter	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	A
Luba DeWitt	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	E	A	P	X	P
Art DeNunzio	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	X	P
Carolina Rendeiro	E	E	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P

COMMISSIONERS:

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

EX-OFFICIO:

Alfonso Cueto, Ambassador-at-Large
Ricardo Taño, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce / Vice Chair, International Committee

STAFF:

Lourdes M. Cuzán, Secretary, IACC
International Affairs Coordinator, Development Department

GUESTS:

Victoria Trucco, President / Sharing for Kids Foundation
Ariel Román, Vice President / Sharing for Kids Foundation

Chair Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was present. Chair Rendeiro announced that she had to leave early for a television interview.

Motion was made by Steve McGaughey to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 29, 2007, as submitted. Motion was seconded by Ray Airan. The motion was unanimously passed.

The Board discussed the proposed draft of the Sister City Trust Fund prepared by Steve McGaughey. The group agreed that the document should be reviewed by the City Attorney before it is submitted to the City Commission. The group also agreed that the title should reflect that the funds will be used for international outreach projects in general and not only to those related to the Sister Cities and suggested-*Trust Fund for Sister Cities and International Projects*.

Motion was made by Ray Airan to take the proposal to the City Attorney for her review and based on her suggestions move forward with a recommendation to the City Commission to approve the creation of the Trust Fund. Motion was seconded by Stephen McGaughey. The motion was unanimously passed.

Victoria Trucco, President of Sharing for Kids Foundation, presented a humanitarian Sister City project with Cartagena, Colombia. She informed the group that the Foundation benefits various children's organizations in Colombia such as schools, rehabilitation centers for the handicap, hospitals, etc. Ms. Trucco asked for the Board's support for their next project which will be a gala dinner / dance to be held at the Hyatt Hotel in Coral Gables on Saturday, May 3rd, 2008. Tickets for the event will be \$100/pp. She stated that the funds derived from this fund raising event will be used towards the purchase of an x-ray machine for a 220-bed children's hospital in Cartagena. She noted that although Rotary has donated \$23,000 there is a shortage of \$40,000. Ms. DeWitt said that she is aware of the project through Yoli Woodridge from Rotary and said that people should generously support the project. Ms. Trucco said that

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she spoke to Yoli and that she agreed to assist by selling a table for the event. Ricardo Taño stated that he is also involved with the Miami Beach Rotary Club and said that he would like to help with this fund raising event. Ariel Roman, Vice President of the Foundation, added that the new Mayor of Cartagena will be in Coral Gables for the in an effort to reaffirm the Sister City relationship with Coral Gables. Ms. Cuzán informed Ms. Trucco that there is a possibility that the Mayor will be out of town on May 3rd but he asked that the group proceed the date which is most suitable to them. Ms. Trucco said that she would schedule an appointment with Ms. Cuzán to discuss the creation of a Coral Gables Committee for the event. Mr. DeNunzio suggested they should also contact Kelly Sastre with the Coral Gables Disability Board because she is very much involved with programs such as this. Mr. McGaughey said that this project is a perfect example of the need for a Trust Fund Account as a perfect mechanism to work with groups as this on fund raising initiatives.

Motion was made by Stephen McGaughey to support the *Sharing for Kids Foundation* on their Humanitarian Sister City project which will benefit a children's hospital in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. The fundraising event scheduled for May 3rd will be held at the Hyatt Hotel in Coral Gables. Motion was seconded by Ray Airan. Motion passed unanimously.

Carolina Rendeiro was excused from the meeting and Vice Chair McGaughey proceeded with the balance of the Agenda on her behalf.

Ms. Moskowitz reported that the Communications Sub-Committee met to rework the Council's Annual Report to the Commission making it relevant to them. She stated that Ms. Cuzán prepared a wonderful report by informing the people of what they needed to know assuming that they had no notion of the program. Ms. Moskowitz asked the other Board members to go back to their appointing Commissioners and encourage them to read the Annual Report submitted by Ms. Cuzán as it is a wonderful summary of the positive economic impact the Council is making to the City.

Mr. Airan reported that he had met with Vice Mayor Kerdyk and Dr. Carpenter regarding possible international academic exchange programs. He said that things are moving forward and that Dr. Carpenter will report at the next meeting.

Ricardo Taño reported that the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Trade Mission originally scheduled for February had been postponed to mid-May as there is an interest from a local business development organization to join the Mission which will contribute significantly to the component of the program. He said that he will confirm the new dates.

The Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 31, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Lourdes M. Cuzán
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council