

DRAFT

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

Minutes of the Meeting of February 17, 2009

MEMBERS:	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	COMMISSIONERS:
Stephen McGaughey	P	P	X	P	A	X	P	P	P	P	P	A	Comm. Maria Anderson
Michelle Moskowitz	P	P	P	E	P	X	P	P	P	E	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Ray Airan	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
John Carpenter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Don Slesnick
Luba DeWitt	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	E	A	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Art DeNunzio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	E	P	David Brown, City Manager
Carolina Rendeiro	E	E	E	E	E	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

GUESTS:

Steve Edelstein, Valentino Macor, David Carache-Guzman

ABSENT:

Ray Airan

STAFF:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, International Affairs Coordinator

Jessica Wotherspoon, Business Development Specialist, Development Department

Chair Carolina Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:55 a.m. A quorum was present.

Motion was made by Steve McGaughey to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2008 meeting, as presented. Motion was seconded by John Carpenter. Motion was unanimously passed.

Ms.Rendeiro – Reported that the Coral Gables Chamber Mission to Colombia, progressing satisfactorily. Some Coral Gables residents are interested in the Mission, which will travel to three cities. The Mission also involves the Miami Chamber of Commerce and the Beacon Council. The trip is not a business trip, it is a cultural, educational trip, departing Miami Sunday, April 19th, and returning Saturday, April 25th.

A brief discussion of the trip's itinerary was held among the board members. Ms. Rendeiro reported that the president of the Chamber of Commerce had negotiated a special rate for the group with the Intercontinental Hotel. It is anticipated that the Mission will be made or will consist of approximately 25-30. Ms. Rendeiro will be in charge of Cartagena portion of the trip, and the Chamber will organize the remainder of the trip.

Ms. Rendeiro stated that Mayor Slesnick will attend the event of Thursday the 23rd, depending his fight schedule.

Once completed, Ms. Rendeiro will be emailing IACC members itinerary for the trip. Ms Rendeiro said that the purpose of the trip is to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Sister Cities relationship.

Ms. Rendeiro went on and inform the members of the Aix' Provence mission and addressed Mr. Edelstein if he was handling any portion of the mission.

Mr. Edelstein reported his attendance was to establish better communication with Aix' Provence. Mr. Edelstein offered to assume that position citing his continued contact with Aix. Further more Mr. Edelstein stated that Raul Valdes-Fauli was also recommended for this position.

Ms. Rendeiro stated that Mayor Slesnick mentioned that Raul Vales- Fauli was interested in carrying out this duty. Ms. Rendeiro went on to say she had not received updated information on this matter and would request a meeting with the Mayor.

Ms. Rendeiro Informed the Board members this year's visit would be from Aix to Coral Gables she also stated that The Chamber is already looking to next year's outbound mission, which would be in France since the mission has been to Italy and soon Colombia.

Mr. Edelstein informed the members two years ago this mission to Aix was presented and there were 17-20 Sister Cities represented. Mr. Edelstein mentioned the Mayor Slesnick had asked him to represent the City of Coral Gables.

Ms. Rendeiro indicated past years the emphasis has been coming from the Cham o Sister City country and then visit the surrounding regions and finally the Sister City is the last stop of that country's tour.

Mr. Edelstein went on to recognize the 20th Anniversary of Granada.

Ms. Rendeiro stated we are still working with Granada and something needs to be dedicated here in Coral Gables. Ms. Rendeiro used the example of the Dedication of Pomegranate.

Ms. Rendeiro stated she will have a meeting with Mayor Slesnick in order to understand where we stand with a dedication for Granada.

Ms. Rendeiro went on to discuss the Consular Corp Reception scheduled for March 3rd. Ms. Rendeiro stated invitations were already sent and should be arriving shortly. Ms. Rendeiro mentioned that the Consular Corp Reception would be in conjunction with the Flags on Ponce.

Ms. Rendeiro stated that the Mayor had mentioned who would like to take charge of the Sister Cities by board delegation? The main goal is to stay in touch. Photos exchanged. A complete outreach program on all levels we feel more needs to be done. Mr. McGaughey expressed some interested but would not commit.

Val Macor mentioned if Mayor Valdez-Fauli establish relations with Lima, Peru?

Ms. DeWitt expressed how the City's Sister City program currently had plenty to handle with six Sister City's. Establishing a seven would just be impossible.

Ms. Rendeiro with the Chambers of our Sister Cities is really interested in pushing forward the Sister City program. Ms. Rendeiro expresses the lack of educational, cultural the Chambers do want to work to improve relations.

Push to next month's meeting the topic of Sister City.

Ms. Rendeiro informed the board members of La Antigua, Guatemala having to cancel due to Visa reasons. The visit would be moved to March or April.

Mr. Edelstein mentioned that Consul General (of France) might want to host some type of delegation for the arrival of Muriel Pradon. The official time for her arrival and stay is being confirmed in the next few days.

David Carcache-Guzman introduced himself as being the chair for the United Nations Association. Mr. Carcache-Guzman expressed how his organization could provide schools in our Sister City program with school supplies and hygiene products.

Mr. Carcache-Guzman distributed his business cards to all board members. Carcache-Guzman continued in saying that his organization was holding two fund raisers this year and that the previous ambassador of Nicaragua was working with him and their relationship.

Ms. Rendeiro welcomed Mr. Edelstein and other guests back to future meetings. She also mentioned the importance of arriving on time and advance notice on anyone bringing a guest.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.