

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 22nd, 2024

Location: The Fink Studio
2506 Ponce de León Blvd., Coral Gables, Florida

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Olga Ramudo	P												Mayor Vince Lago
Vicky Rua	P												Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Sadia M. Raja	P												Comm. Kirk Menendez
Raoul Cantero	P												Comm. Ariel Fernandez
Richard Montes de Oca	P												Comm. Melissa Castro
Alejandra Collarte	A												Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	A												Council-at-Large Appointment

A = Absent P=Present E= Excused UA= Unexcused Absence X= No Meeting -=Former Member

The International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.
Chair Olga Ramudo welcomed everyone.

There are no minutes to be approved today. December 2023 IACC meeting was canceled by unanimous vote.

COUNTRY REPORT

SEVILLA, SPAIN

Chair Ramudo informed board members that she was having difficulty connecting with someone from Sevilla. She called City Hall in Sevilla, the Director of Tourism for Spain in Miami and has also contacted Javier Perez Valencia, who happens to be in Spain, and will try to get this information for her. Chair Ramudo also added she is going to wait for Mr. Perez Valencia to get back to discuss. If he cannot secure a contact for her, Chair Ramudo will reach out to the Consulate of Spain.

QUITO, ECUADOR

Vice Chair Montes de Oca provided a brief update on Quito. During his last update, he had told the Board about the assassination of a presidential candidate. Since then, general elections took place, and a new president was elected. Daniel Noboa Azín is the new president. He is expected

to normalize the country. Vice Chair Montes de Oca informed the Board that on November 9, 2023, the city hosted a delegation from Manta, Ecuador. Raimundo Rodulfo, IT Director and Matt Anderson, Sustainability Manager gave presentations on Smart Cities and Sustainability best practices. During the visit, Mayor Valdivieso expressed her interest in forging a Sister City relationship with Coral Gables and has since sent Mayor Lago a letter of interest. Vice Chair Montes de Oca wanted some input from the IACC Board on whether the City of Coral Gables should have two Sister Cities from the same country.

He reported that while he is interested in pursuing Quito, he has not had too much luck with getting in touch with the new mayor or the administration. Staff, through the Consulate of Ecuador, will try to secure the contact information for the new Mayor and ask Mayor Lago to send him a letter to gauge his interest in continuing a Sister Cities relationship. Should there be no response, the Board will engage the City of Manta.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Board member Rua expressed to Board members her interest to do something with Aix-en-Provence regarding culture, art, or culinary events to showcase this international city in Coral Gables. She asked board members if they had any suggestions for her since she is new to the Board. She met with a representative of Aix-en-Provence who was interested in bringing their green city model to the City of Coral Gables. Board member Rua added that she would like to present a programmatic plan to Aix-en-Provence which could include Coral Gables showcasing French art, films, and French cuisine. Among the ideas proposed was to bring a chef from Aix-en-Provence to the Biltmore Hotel.

Chair Ramudo suggested that we should first invite a delegation from Aix to visit Coral Gables and hold a round table. She added if they do decide to come, then we should organize some events, presentation, tours, etc. She also suggested to plan a meeting with the Consul General of France, and involve Air France, Sofitel, and French restaurants in Miami.

STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA

Board member Sadia Raja reported that she contacted the City of Stellenbosch in the months of July and August of last year, her last communication with them was December 11, 2023. Based on their last correspondence with Hugh Simon, which used to live in Miami, was to inform her if the application fee for the Sister Cities International Membership was included in Stellenbosch's new budget. Board member Raja told the Board that she will send an email tomorrow to the City Manager of Stellenbosch.

CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA

Mr. Cantero had no updates to report.

Mrs. Leticia Perez informed Board members that she received an email from the representative of the office of the new Mayor of Cartagena de Indias, she will be the point of contact from now on. She will forward her contact information to Board member Cantero.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Leticia Perez
International Business Development Representative
Economic Development Department
City of Coral Gables