

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of January 19, 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	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	E
Israel Reyes	P	E	P	E	X	X	-	E	P	E	X	P
Carolina Rendeiro	E	E	P	P	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	P
Nancy Sanabria	E	P	E	P	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	P
Volker Anding	P	-	-	-	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	P
Steve Edelstein	E	P	P	P	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	P
Enrique Monasterio	P	-	-	-	X	X	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  
 Quebec, Canada – Mr. Edelstein  
 Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzan  
 Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding  
 Antigua, Guatemala – Ms. Sanabria  
 Pavia, Italy – Mr. Monasterio  
 Granada, Spain – Mr. Reyes

**A = Absent**  
**P = Present**  
**E = Excused**  
**X = No Meeting**

**Staff in Attendance:**

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

**Guest:**

Ms. Cuzan called the meeting to order at 8:46 a.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on October 20, 2015 and Mr. Reyes seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**PAVIA, ITALY:**

Mr. Monasterio stated that Pavia, Italy, has not been responsive to the City’s efforts to engage in a Sister City relationship. Ms. Cuzan noted that moving forward, it would be more effective to select a city where a person is committed to work jointly with our Mayor and IACC to develop the concrete programs. Consuls General are an important, unfortunately, once they are no longer at their local posts relationships tend to disintegrate. Ms. Cuzan suggested they speak to Mayor Cason and present him with a few cities and contacts that will be willing to cooperate on same.

Mr. Monasterio stated that he has not spoken to the Consul General of Spain due to schedule conflicts. Mr. Monasterio expressed that Mayor Cason was interested in establishing a relationship with Santander, Spain, which the Consul General was interested for the City of Coral Gables to have a relationship with Santander. Mr. Monasterio is unsure if the relationship will work because of his conversation with the Consul General who stated that Santander is not at on the same page as the City of Coral Gables. Ms. Cuzan asked if Mr. Monasterio knew what Santander would like to do in a sister city partnership. Mr. Monasterio said that before Santander would establish a sister city relationship they would like to start business negotiations. Mr. Monasterio expressed that is not what the sister city relationships is all about. Mr. Monasterio will continue to work on a relationship with Santander and see if they can come to an agreement.

Ms. Cuzan reported that Susan Angulo (Provost at St. Thomas University) and Jaime Angulo (former Director of the Spanish Film Festival in Miami) will be glad to facilitate communications with their contacts in Santander to assist the City on this effort.

#### AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding said that he received an email from the sister city office in Aix-en-Provence and they sent an annual report and a preview for 2016. Mr. Anding said the report was interesting because it stated that last year the University of Delaware hosted a concert in Aix-en-Provence. Mr. Anding stated that for this year, the representatives from Aix will visit Philadelphia and a chorus from the University of Delaware will visit Aix. Mr. Anding also stated that Aix has also asked for membership fees. Mr. Anding stated that he was unaware of any membership fees and would consult with Mr. Edelstein. Ms. Cuzan asked how much the membership fees were. Mr. Anding stated that the membership fees were 40 euros a year for association fees. Mr. Anding would not suggest paying fees. Mr. Anding mentioned that Commissioner Slesnick has shown interest with having a program with Aix-en-Provence. Mr. Anding has spoken informally with Commissioner Slesnick about having a program either this year or next year. Mr. Anding also stated that he is following up with his contact in Aix from the vague response to the suggestions that were included in the first email. Ms. Cuzan stated that it had been a while since they have visited.

#### CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan reported that a meeting a meeting was scheduled was scheduled for Mayor Cason and the Mayor of Cartagena. The meeting was scheduled for noon and at 12:30 pm there was no news from the Cartagena official. The Mayor of Cartagena showed up at 3PM without notice. This being not the first time the Cartagena Mayors do not show at events held in their honor and lack of interest to cultivate this relationship, Mayor Cason suggest the Board should consider an alternate city. Ms. Paz said that since the Mayor has been in office there has been no positive interaction with the mayors from Cartagena. Ms. Paz said that the only time Cartagena has really shown interest was when they were planning on giving them a fire truck. Ms. Cuzan said that in the past year the City Hall of Cartagena has been unstable. Ms. Cuzan said that she has friends from Cartagena that have helped with communication and she had met with an intermediary mayor who showed interest but unfortunately passed away. Mr. Anding asked if there is a possibility for another city within the country or another country all together. Ms. Cuzan suggested to defer discussion on a new Colombian city to the next meeting.

#### GRANADA, SPAIN:

Mr. Reyes said he has not reached out to Granada since at the last minute they had agreed to look for another Sister City. Mr. Reyes said he had been confused if they were going to proceed with Panama City since Mr. Edelstein had mentioned that the City has the majority of our Sister Cities in Central and South America. He did not want to call his contact in Panama City if they were not going to proceed. Mr.

Monasterio stated that it made sense to proceed with countries in Central and South America because those are the countries that were willing to act with Miami. Ms. Cuzan said that she had gathered from the previous minutes that there were some items that were still up in the air such as the idea of pursuing another city with Spain or as Ms. Rendeiro has suggested a city in Portugal.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Anding asked if inviting Consul Generals to the IACC meetings would be a good idea or wait until they can coordinate which cities will officially be sister city partners. Ms. Cuzan said at one point they had discussed meeting with the Consul Generals to explain the difficulties they had been facing. However, Ms. Cuzan said she was unsure that ever happened. Mr. Monasterio suggested they should invite the Consul General from Guatemala to discuss the Farmer's Market as well and the Consul General for Colombia if to see if they would like to participate as well. Mr. Anding asked if it would be appropriate to discuss problems in the formal meetings or meet with them one on one. Mr. Anding suggested that they should not try to solve problems in a formal meeting session.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Cuzan said they received a packet from Fred for the Farmer's Market. The packet included vendors and the cost related to the market. The packet included the application for the market, permit application. Ms. Cuzan said there was talk about making a motion to the City Commission to waive the fees. The fees are \$250 for all 11 weeks. The daily rate is \$30. Mr. Anding said that he did not believe the Counsels would attend every week. Ms. Cuzan suggested they could use the daily rate. Mr. Monasterio said that he did not believe that they should be charged since they are working with the City. Mr. Reyes agreed and added that it is not the same as a private corporation. Ms. Paz asked if they should take it to the administration or to the Commission. Ms. Cuzan and Ms. Paz agreed that Ms. Cuzan would speak to the City Manager about waiving the \$30 fees.

Mr. Monasterio said that they needed to figure out who was going to be interested in participating so that they could possibly use the space more than once. Ms. Paz said that they would fill out the application for whatever Saturday they and their sister city would be interested in participating in. Ms. Cuzan said that she met with the trade commissioner from Guatemala and she would be interested in participating. Ms. Cuzan reminded the Council that when Fred, the director from Parks and Recreation was there, he mentioned that they could not sell books or candles. They would not be allowed to sell food. Ms. Paz pointed out they would not be able to sell food because they would not know where the profit would go. Mr. Monasterio said that it would be more like a showcase. Mr. Anding said they would include information but asked what if they had some edible samples. Ms. Paz said they would be able to give away the samples without collecting money. Ms. Cuzan said they would have to find a country willing to donate food. Mr. Monasterio said it could be treated as an information booth. Ms. Cuzan said that they should do at least one or two booths this year. Mr. Reyes asked if there were any statistics as to what Saturday draws the most crowds. Ms. Paz stated that during the weekend of Carnival on the Mile there are larger crowds which will be the end of February beginning of March. Mr. Anding asked if they decided on a booth that weekend would it detract from the event itself. Ms. Paz said they would have Saturday when the market is close to finishing is when the Carnival begins so they would have more people. Mr. Reyes said he believed that was the best time because there would be people coming down that normally would not come. Mr. Monasterio asked if there is another large event if they decided to host it another weekend. Ms. Paz said that during St. Patrick's Day event on the Mile they also have large crowds. Mr. Monasterio added that he was asking for another potential date because the time is short to start coordinating for the weekend of the Carnival on the Mile. Mr. Anding said they should reach out to a consulate and if they are interested go ahead with the booth. Mr. Anding asked if they would have the booth close to City Hall. Ms. Cuzan stated that when they spoke to Fred they made the request to be

closest to the steps. Ms. Paz added that they could be placed there only if they did not have food. If they planned on having food, they would have to be placed on the street.

Ms. Paz asked what day they agreed upon because the St. Patrick's Day weekend which would be March 19<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Cuzan said that day would work so that they could promote it and send out literature and contact the consulate. Mr. Anding asked Ms. Cuzan if it would only be Guatemala. Ms. Cuzan said yes because it the most active relationships right now. Mr. Anding asked if we would offer some folkloric aspect and music to the event. Ms. Paz said that it would be ok. Mr. Anding also added that it will add to the event. Ms. Cuzan said that they should inform the Guatemalan Trade Commission about the Farmer's Market and have Ms. Sanabria speak with her.

Ms. Cuzan read a note from the Chairwoman, Ms. Rendeiro. The note read, "Sorry to have to miss the meeting, and hopefully my work letter will get me off of jury duty for the time being." Ms. Cuzan informed the Council on behalf of Ms. Rendeiro that the Sister Cities Leadership Consular Reception is now booked for March 10 at the Coral Gables Museum. She added that a save the date will be going out this week to the Consular Corps which Mr. Anding was kind enough to share the mailing list with Ms. Rendeiro. Ms. Rendeiro mentioned that at the last Board meeting it had been approved to ask for funds from our foundation, but she was not sure if the email went to the foundation board. Ms. Rendeiro asked if they could ask Mr. Edelstein and she would follow up with an email. Mr. Anding added that he had an executive meeting with the Consular Corps where he shared this event with them. Ms. Rendeiro's second item mentioned that Mayor Cason wrote the letter to the Quebec City Mayor.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2016.  
There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz  
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council