

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

Minutes of the Meeting of September 15, 2015

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lourdes Cuzán	P	E	P	E	X	X	P	P	P	E	P	P
Israel Reyes	E	E	P	E	X	X	-	E	P	E	P	P
Carolina Rendeiro	E	E	P	P	X	X	P	P	P	P	E	E
Nancy Sanabria	P	P	E	P	X	X	P	P	P	P	P	P
Volker Anding	-	-	-	-	X	X	P	P	P	-	-	-
Steve Edelstein	P	P	P	P	X	X	P	P	P	P	P	P
Enrique Monasterio	-	-	-	-	X	X	P	P	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:

Curitiba, Brazil – 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:

Mayor Jim Cason
 Jason Edelstein

Ms. Rendeiro, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 8:33a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Cuzán made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on August 18, 2015 and Mr. Reyes seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Ms. Sanabria says she and Mr. Edelstein have been working on the application to send the fire trucks to Guatemala. She says there has been a lot of turmoil in Guatemala because of the elections. She says some of the leaders have been imprisoned and others have stepped in. She says the problem is that some of the turmoil has been in customs. She says the necessary information must come from customs, but that given the political upheaval, it is taking longer than expected. She said that she is currently working with Dunia Miranda-Mauri, our Trade Commissioner, and Rosa Maria Merida de Mora, the new Consul General. Ms.

Sanabria says we are also awaiting the receipt of the Humanitarian questionnaire. Ms. Sanabria suggests maybe helping them with the answers. She says they're overwhelmed in Guatemala.

Ms. Sanabria asks about letters to be sent to the Consul Generals introducing the liaisons. Ms. Rendeiro informs her that the Mayor has to draft and send those letters. Ms. Sanabria says that she's going to follow up with a phone call to the new Consul General and invite Dunia & Rosa to the next IACC meeting on October 20th. Ms. Rendeiro says that as of now, that is alright.

PAVIA, ITALY:

Mr. Monasterio said he met with the Mayor a few weeks ago, and that the Mayor is planning to go to Pavia soon to meet with the Mayor there and hopefully create a connection. Ms. Cuzan asks when the Mayor is supposed to go, and Ms. Paz responds that nothing has been confirmed. Ms. Paz says there is too much back and forth, but that the Mayor is unsure as of now. Ms. Cuzan asks what the status of Pavia is, and Ms. Rendeiro informs her that it is a Friendship City, but that it can easily be moved up.

Ms. Rendeiro says she will be in Milan in November and that she can try to visit Pavia while she is there. Ms. Cuzan asks if the Board is committed to Pavia. Mr. Monasterio says yes; he says he is trying to meet with the Consul General in the next couple weeks. He says a letter was sent to the Consul General introducing him.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding said that Mr. Edelstein just gave him the file on Aix-en-Provence, but that for the time being there is nothing to report. He says he will go through the file and get up to speed. He says it seems there is not presently anything ongoing.

He said he would like to go back to the minutes. He says that although his changes were supposedly added, he does not see them reflected, specifically in the attendance calendar at the very beginning of the minutes. He pointed out that the Board had decided in its meeting on August 18, 2015 to invite recently arrived Consuls General of sister city countries, Italy and Spain, individually to one of the IACC meetings. He suggested that this decision be included in the minutes. The Chair and all other Board members agreed.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan said she spoke to Mr. Couceyro about the Farmer's Market. She said she invited him to this meeting. He had told her he had a meeting prior to the IACC meeting, and would try to make it. Ms. Cuzan says if he does not go to the meeting, she would like for everyone to speak to him directly about the guidelines for the Board's participation in the Farmer's Market so that the group is not in violation of anything. Ms. Cuzan says that she and Aida are contacting local artists from Cartagena so there is not the cost of bringing stuff directly from Cartagena. She reminds the group of the recent exhibition of Cartagena art at City Hall and the Consulate and that is she is working on. She says maybe at the beginning of the year, February or so, it's going to be at the Museum or the Consulate, which she adds, is a beautiful facility. Ms. Cuzan says the only thing that might require budgeting is perhaps a cocktail at the Museum or Consulate.

QUEBEC, CANADA:

Mr. Edelstein says he now knows the contact person in Quebec, but there are issues with communication. The woman has not been present; Mr. Edelstein has called and left voice messages, but no one has gotten back in touch with him. He sent an email and copied the Assistant to the Consul General, as well as Mayor Cason, and Ms. Paz. He says the email was rejected by the Consulate, as well as Quebec. However, the email went through to Mayor Cason and Ms. Paz. Mr. Edelstein says he has contacted IT to discover what the problem is, and it is an issue on our end. Ms. Rendeiro asks Mr. Edelstein who he's been working with. He says that the Assistant to the Consul General gave him the contact information for the appropriate person in Quebec. Ms. Rendeiro asks for her name and offers to call. Mr. Edelstein tells a story about vacationing in Quebec City.

GRANADA, SPAIN:

Mr. Reyes says Spain has a new Consul General named Candido Creis. He says there is a reception on October 19th at the Coral Gables Museum. He says hopefully it will be an opportunity for new roads with Spain. Mr. Anding says he believes Consul General Creis is the former Head of the Royal House.

Mr. Reyes inquires if the Mayor can write a letter similar to the letter he wrote to the former Consul General when Mr. Reyes was trying to have lunch with her, and further mentioned that he will be at the reception so that it's already on Consul General Creis' mind. Ms. Rendeiro asks if everyone is attending the reception on October 19th at 6pm. Mr. Edelstein asks if they are all invited. Mr. Reyes says yes, and that he will forward the invitations to Ms. Paz.

CURITIBA, BRAZIL:

Ms. Rendeiro says that there was a great turn-out at the Sister Cities State Leadership meeting. She says that at the meeting, the City of Doral announced that Curitiba was their new Sister City. Ms. Rendeiro said that she sent a text message to the President of Sister Cities International in Washington, D.C. to find out what was going on, and the President informed her that the City of Doral was mistaken. Ms. Rendeiro then returned to converse with the representatives from the City of Doral to inquire about their assertion. The representative asserted that it was going to happen because a big developer from Curitiba is seeking to create a development in Doral. Ms. Rendeiro told them it did not work that way. She says she spoke to the Consul General of Brazil about it, and copied Sister Cities International on it and it is being resolved. She says Curitiba is the most exciting Sister City she's ever tried to work with; that it has been the best. She says we have the commission's vote, but the item has not made it on the agenda yet. She informed Doral that they would have to request permission from the City of Coral Gables to even have a Friendship City relationship with Curitiba.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Rendeiro informs Mr. Anding that capitalization does not really matter in the meeting minutes; Mr. Anding says he understands. Mr. Anding says Ms. Paz told him not to send communications to all Board members, but just to her for her to then disseminate the information. He says he has worked on many Boards before, and it has never been a problem. He suggests maybe the Sunshine Law is stricter for municipal government. Mr. Edelstein says the City Attorney issued an opinion regarding communications. He says that all communications must be sent to Evelyn first, and then she will disseminate. Ms. Paz interrupts and says Mr. Reyes is very versed in Sunshine Law and can clarify. Mr. Anding asks whether he could speak with the Secretary about sister city issues. He says he is a lawyer by training, and often questions at the margin are of particular interest.

Mr. Anding asks how he could meet with Mr. Edelstein and discuss Aix-en-Provence outside of the IACC meetings. Mr. Edelstein explains Mr. Anding would have to contact Ms. Paz first, and that she would coordinate the meeting. Mr. Edelstein says he believes such a meeting requires two-weeks-notice and must be made open to the public.

Mr. Anding suggests that changes to the meeting minutes should be discussed before the meeting. Mr. Reyes says that the best practice is to simply email Ms. Paz about any concerns with the minutes.

Mr. Edelstein suggests the list of attendees have their cities listed also so that someone looking at the minutes will know what person is the liaison for which countries. Ms. Rendeiro says that's already obvious from the minutes because the liaison is the one who gives the report on the particular city. Ms. Paz says that one could also look at the original resolution to determine who the liaison is for each city. Mr. Edelstein suggests also including contact information for each liaison.

Ms. Rendeiro says there are a number of countries going to E-Merge. Spain has already signed their contracts. Italy will be here again; Ms. Rendeiro says she's working with France. She says Columbia is in, and so is Guatemala, although the latter in a smaller booth. Mr. Anding asks what E-Merge is, and Ms. Rendeiro explains that E-Merge is the technology and innovation conference held in Miami. Ms. Rendeiro says the caliber of companies involved is extraordinary, and Mr. Anding asks if the Board is invited to E-Merge. Ms. Rendeiro tells him that he would receive a 10% discount on his ticket as a local member partner. Mr. Anding asks if he needs to register. Ms. Rendeiro says he'll receive a code. She mentions that Sister Cities will have a booth again at the Conference, and that the team comes down from Washington, D.C. The conference will be April 18th and 19th.

Ms. Rendeiro tells the group about the LATAM Summit as well, which will be held April 14th and 15th, and is being hosted by Sister Cities at the Biltmore Hotel.

Mr. Anding says Mr. Andy Gomez's stand with President Obama regarding the opening of diplomatic relations with Cuba was remarkable at the Sister Cities State Leadership meeting in Miami Beach. He also says the panel was great. Ms. Sanabria and Mr. Anding talk about the various presenters they observed at the Sister Cities Leadership meeting.

The Mayor arrives and Ms. Rendeiro comments that he is early. The Mayor says we will need to fill the Humanitarian Questionnaire out for them, and just have the Guatemalans sign. The Mayor says he has been waiting on Pavia, but that if he does not hear back from them by the end of the week, he is not going to go. He says he has been checking ticket prices, but Pavia has not come up with a program. The Mayor asks about communications with Quebec. He asks about Curitiba, and Ms. Rendeiro tells the Mayor that Doral also wants Curitiba as a Sister City. He asks about Granada, and says if the cities are non-responsive, we ought to do what we always do and make the cities emeritus. He says we should look for cities that are actually interested in working with us. Ms. Rendeiro suggests Santander in Spain. The Mayor says we need to find an enthusiastic city who really wants to do something. He says we have the money to do things, but that the IACC needs to reach out and figure out other city's goals here, and help them accomplish them, and seek to accomplish our goals there. Mr. Monasterio suggests Oviedo, the capital of Asturias. Ms. Rendeiro cautions that we need to see how many Sister Cities they have.

The Mayor asks about the Farmer's Market-Ms. Cuzan says Mr. Couceyro is coming up with guidelines for the Sister Cities to participate. Ms. Cuzan says Mr. Couceyro would like to limit the items to food and crafts. Mayor Cason says the Board can hold similar events right outside the Museum without those limitations. The Mayor suggests having a student exchange program where they could intern in municipal government. He asks about Quebec's Chamber visit. Ms. Rendeiro replies they'll be going there for the

Sister Cities signing, but Mr. Trowbridge and she have been working on it. Mayor Cason asks about dates.

Mayor Cason says Sister Cities is Mayor to Mayor which requires the democratic process, and Mayor Cason says it won't work with Cuba, because there are no elected officials in Cuba, just communist appointees. Ms. Rendeiro explains that in the last meeting the group discussed that there are presently 11 Sister Cities with Cuba in the United States, and they are mostly in the agricultural regions of the U.S. The Mayor says there's a political reason for it as they are trying to sell their food. Ms. Rendeiro says it was brought up because of that. Mr. Anding says that Mr. Gomez spoke about Sister Cities relations with Cuba, and how they would have to go through the embassies in order to establish same. Mayor Cason says Friendship Cities are fine because they would just be an accommodation. Ms. Rendeiro says we are known for having very good relationships with Sister Cities, but we need to maintain the relationships with even Friendship Cities to keep that image.

The Mayor refers to some of the relationships as "Dame cinco" relationships, meaning that some of the cities only request and do not reciprocate. He says we need to find cities with which we could have a mutually beneficial relationship, and suggests that the liaisons all sit down with their respective Consul Generals to discuss their mission program plans, and see how the IACC plays into that.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2015.
There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:30a.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council