CITY OF CORAL GABLES
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COORDINATING COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of November 20, 2018

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	X	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Israel Reyes	E	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	X	Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	E	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	X	Comm. Patricia Keon
Claudio Pastor	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	E	E	P	X	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	X	Comm. Michael Mena
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	-	P	P	P	X	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	Council-at-Large Appointment

Country Appointed Liaisons:
Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzán
Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding
Antigua, Guatemala – Mr. Gavarrete
Santa Tecla, El Salvador – Mr. Monasterio
Quito, Ecuador – Mr. Reyes

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused
UA = Unexcused Absence

Staff in Attendance:
Beba Luzarraga, Secretary, IACC

Guests:
Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli, City of Coral Gables
Steven Edelstein, Edelstein Law Firm; former member of IACC
Pamela Fuertes, Director, Coral Gables Economic Development Department
Leticia Perez, International Business, Coral Gables Economic Development Department

---

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the IACC meeting of October 25, 2018. Ms. Cuzán made a motion to approve the minutes. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Ms. Cuzán, opened the meeting and welcomed Mayor of Coral Gables Raúl Valdés-Fauli and Mr. Steven Edelstein, Edelstein Law Firm and President of the Coral Gables International Affairs Foundation.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding presented an update on the relationship he has continued to foster with his counterpart in Aix-en-Provence. He had suggested that the Directors of the Information Technology Departments of Coral Gables and Aix-en-Provence establish a direct contact in order to discuss possibilities of a cooperation in this field (as Mayor Valdes-Fauli had suggested). Attached to the minutes is correspondence he shared with members of the IACC which contains the specific details.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

No new developments on La Antigua, Guatemala.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan reported several developments discussed in a call she received. Items discussed: training session with Fire Department for the extrication training and education. Due to this request a discussion took place regarding fundraising/sponsorships to be able to undertake activities for Sister Cities requests. Mr. Edelstein cautioned that it would be in conflict with the Foundation. This last item will need to be cleared with the City Attorney's office. Mr. Edelstein agreed that it may run into trouble with the IACC Foundation. Ms. Cuzan asked if the IACC Foundation was undertaking any fundraising efforts. Mr. Edelstein said they are constantly looking at fundraising opportunities but it is all done privately to protect the identity of their participants. He then stated that there are several IRS rules regarding amount of money they are allowed to fundraise for the first five years of the Foundation. They have now surpassed that period and can undertake additional fundraising which he has discussed with the Mayor.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

Mayor Valdés-Fauli and Steve Edelstein held a long debate regarding the payment for playground equipment the committee was able to obtain as a donation from the Coral Gables Youth Center. They will be shipped to Santa Tecla, El Salvador for the purpose of the children of Santa Tecla to be able to have a place to go and keep them off the streets and away from criminal and other type of negative exposure. The equipment has been placed in a shipping container and is awaiting approval for payment to be delivered to Santa Tecla. The committee requested funds from the Coral Gables International Affairs Foundation and the Mayor approved. However Mr. Edelstein stated that proper procedures were not followed and therefore they could not approve the expenditure. The Mayor interceded on behalf of the committee which led to a lengthy explanation of rules and regulations that needed to be followed, including a new invoice since the other one had expired. Mr. Edelstein also stated that Carolina Rendeiro who sits on the board of the Foundation had several concerns regarding the rules and procedures. The committee agreed that the requests will be presented to them before any expenditure is undertaken in the future. A new invoice will be provided for the Mayor to approve and it will be sent to the Foundation for payment.

Dr. Monasterio is officially designated as liaison to Santa Tecla, El Salvador. A letter of presentation from Mayor Valdés-Fauli was sent to the Mr. Jorge Humberto Claros, Consul General of El Salvador in Miami.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

Mr. Reyes is officially designated as liaison to Quito, Ecuador. A letter of presentation from Mayor Valdés-Fauli was sent to the local Consul General, Abogada Pamela Jalil Garcia and Mr. Reyes will follow up to present himself and establish the relationship.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

Mayor Valdés-Fauli has communicated via a personal letter to Juan Espadas Cejas who is the Mayor of Sevilla to express an interest to establish a Sister City relationship. It will follow same procedures for other sister cities to include a formal document from Sister Cities International for final approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

Claudio Pastor has met with the new Consul of Italy and reported that it was a very positive meeting. There will be further consideration in adding a sister city relationship with them.

Mayor Valdés-Fauli suggested that the committee consider hosting their meetings at the "Sister Cities" room located in the Coral Gables Museum. A comment was made about parking availability but it was concluded that since the meeting is early in the morning this would not be an obstacle. This suggestion will be taken under advisement.

Ms. Kadragic inquired regarding the participation in the Coral Gables Chamber program "Flags on Ponce and encouraged all to help in the effort of having all Sister Cities countries represented.

Ms. Kadragic stated that a Sister City opportunity with Turkey is important but it is currently crippled by the political situation.

Ms. Kadragic mentioned that a relationship with Poland would be interesting and she will work on that. She stated that it would be beneficial to have a presence in Eastern Europe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairwoman Lourdes Cuzan introduced Pamela Fuertes, Director of Coral Gables Economic Development Department. She gave brief background which included her education at Miami Dade College and the University of Miami. She brings an extensive international business connection having served as Sister City coordinator under former Miami Dade Mayor Alex Penelas and more currently working with the Beacon Council. Several members of the committee have known her for many years and are very happy to have her on board at the City of Coral Gables. She will be the interface between her department and this committee.

Mr. Anding requested a brief strategy from Ms. Fuertes on how her department and the IACC/Sister Cities committee could interact and become active in support of her efforts. Ms. Fuertes stated that she is enthusiastic to interface with the Committee and will organize a joint meeting with the Economic Development Board and the Property Advisory Group which all come under her umbrella.

Mr. Anding informed the group that he has been invited by the Government of the Republic of China to visit Taiwan, representing the World Affairs Council of Greater Miami and also acting as an "Ambassador" of the City of Coral Gables. Leticia Perez of Coral Gables Economic Development Department will be preparing a promotional package about the City of Coral Gables for him to take on his trip.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 8:30 am.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beba Luzarraga
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council