

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

Minutes of the Meeting of October 17, 2017

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

Country Appointed Liaisons:

Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzan
Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding
Antigua, Guatemala – Mr. Gavarrete

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

UA = Unexcused Absence

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guest: Mayor Raúl Valdés- Fauli, Mayor
Mark Trowbridge, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
Efrain Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Liaison
Carolina Rendeiro, Resident
Valerie Sutter, Resident
Steve Edelstein, Resident

Ms. Cuzan called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Kadragic made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on August 23, 2017 and Mr. Reyes seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

The Mayor mentioned Aix would be visiting with a delegation. He would like to know what type of collaboration they are looking for. Specifically, a cultural or economic relationship.

Mr. Anding inquired if the Mayor of Aix had an interest in international collaboration.

Mr. Anding presented a letter from Aix sending their regards due to Hurricane Irma. The letter announced a letter from the Mayor of Aix would follow. The letter that was received mentioned a delegation from Marseilles would be visiting Miami. Mr. Anding spoke with the Consul General of France about the delegation. The delegation is coming to sign a cooperation agreement between the two ports. The delegation is about 120 people. Mr. Anding mentioned that a contact in the Miami-Dade County mentioned a Sister City relationship was being signed. Mr. Anding suggested that the purpose of the delegation be clarified. The delegation will include members from Aix. The coordinator of the delegation suggested a reception from the Mayor of Coral Gables on Wednesday, November 8th in the evening for the whole group because it is a business delegation. However, there is a conflict on Wednesday, November 8th because a famous chef from the Aix would be cooking for the delegation. Mr. Anding suggesting a coordinated meeting with all the parties involved to iron out how to receive the delegation.

The Mayor mentioned that the City of Coral Gables is working on an agreement with MIT as part of the innovative initiative. Coral Gables is at the forefront of innovation. The Mayor said the City could offer an insight in innovation and their cultivated relationships with MIT and companies in Silicon Valley. Mr. Anding mentioned that to the contact in Aix offered to discuss the topic with the delegation.

Ms. Cuzan said she spoke with her contact at the County and explained the history of the Aix. She mentioned the City's interest in meeting with delegates from Aix without disrupting the County's programming. Her contact responded with an email with the names of the delegates coming from Aix. The Consul General will continue to provide an updated list. However, they are still missing a window to arrange a reception. Coral Gables will not be hosting the whole delegation. They would only host a reception for the delegates from Aix. Mr. Anding would reach out to the Consulate to coordinate a visit at City Hall.

Ms. Rendeiro said that the delegation is part of an entrepreneurship initiative. These companies see Miami as the gateway to Latin America so there will be many more delegations visiting.

Mr. Trowbridge mentioned that the Chamber would be in Tallahassee from November 5-7 so the chamber will be unavailable.

Mr. Anding would reach out to the Consul General to schedule a delegation visit.

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarette reported he is working on the hospital in Guatemala and will be providing updates soon. No other updates were reported. Mr. Anding complimented an article in the Herald that came out during the weekend about Guatemala.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kadragic gave an update on a relationship with Turkey. She has been working with the new Consul General to find an appropriately sized city for Coral Gables. Mr. Anding asked if he had mentioned the suburb in Istanbul. Ms. Kadragic said he had not. Ms. Kadragic said he seemed not to be aware of any ongoing efforts. Ms. Kadragic asked if he had made any recommendation regarding cities. Ms. Kadragic said he suggested Izmir, which is a coastal city. However, it is a much larger city than Coral Gables. The cities of Turkey are more compatible in size to Miami-Dade County. Those larger cities are broken up into small suburb areas.

Mr. Monasterio said they are trying to develop Aveiro for the spring time. Mr. Monasterio will be working with Ms. Rendeiro to finalize.

Mr. Trowbridge mentioned it was the 25th year in the flag program. The Chamber's role is to work with cities and get them sponsored and placed. The Chamber has in the past visited different countries for outreach on acquiring sister cities. At one point the Chamber was slated to go to Aix-en-Provence but a disaster happened which enabled them to visit. The Flag program not only recognizes sister cities but also multi-national companies. The flags also tie into people's personal interests. Consulates can also sponsor flags and pay for the sponsorship.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Rendeiro thanked everyone for the Portuguese reception at Bulla and mentioned she will be in Porto next week and will be meeting with the Mayor on November 8th. Mayor Valdés-Fauli would like the Mayor of Porto to visit Coral Gables to enhance the relationship with them. Ms. Rendeiro mentioned that the Portuguese are beginning to move from New Jersey to Boca and beginning to trickle to South Florida. She went on to thank Mark Trowbridge for making a legislative trip to Washington.

Ms. Sutter met with the Mayor of Aix-en-Provence while in Aix. Ms. Kadragic asked if Sister Cities was mentioned. Ms. Sutter said it came up when the Mayor found out she was from Coral Gables.

Mayor Valdés-Fauli expressed the vision he sees for the IACC board. He stressed for the board to make relationships that make sense and can mutually benefit from a relationship. The Mayor spoke about a city outside Buenos Aires—San Isidro. San Isidro has a lot of business that have chosen not to be located in the center of Buenos Aires. The mayor of San Isidro is very interested in pursuing a relationship because of the similarities in the two cities. One requirement should be a city that has enough interest to visit Coral Gables and to receive a delegation from the City. The mayor of San Isidro has asked for a delegation to visit in December and coming to visit Coral Gables in January or February. Mr. Anding agreed with the Mayor in pursuing a relationship with San Isidro. In addition, the Consul of Argentina is very active and would be very instrumental in pursuing a relationship between the two cities.

Consul General of Italy would like to explore the possibility of having Palermo as a sister city. The Consul of Spain- the Mayor suggested for the City to stop wasting time in trying to acquire Granada. He mentioned that some people spoke about Santander, Spain but has reservations due to social issues. Avila may be a city to consider.

The Mayor met with the Consul General of Italy. The Consul is promoting relationships with Sicily and Palermo. Palermo is a huge university and cultural center. The Mayor suggested exploring a relationship with Palermo.

The Mayor also met with the Consul General of Spain. The Mayor suggested that the relationship with Granada should be dissolved as it is not being fruitful. The Consul General mentioned Santander. However, the problem is the coalitions in government. The Consul mentioned Avila. He mentioned that Avila would be open to a relationship with Coral Gables. The Mayor asked if Avila would have the same political climate problems as Santander as well as budgetary problems. The Mayor would like to explore a potential relationship.

Mr. Monasterio told the Mayor he had met with the mayors of Santander and Avila. The mayors expressed an interest in having an economic relationship before committing to a Sister City relationship. The Mayor asked Mr. Monasterio to take point on the relationship. Mr. Monasterio said that they should find something that is of interest to the Spanish cities.

Caroline Parker provided an update on the Herring International Hall. The International artist series is anticipated to be presented. Mr. Trujillo a Venezuelan-French Artist. The museum has had programming with the French Consulate of Miami which held a student event in the museum's gallery. Another artist will be featured from South Florida who works from New York and Venice and specializes in Murano glass, her name is Judy Harvest. She focuses on the connection of beads and honey production. Ms. Parker encouraged the board to bring forth any suggestions on artists to consider for future exhibitions.

Lourdes Cuzan requested the board members to get approval on having business cards made at board members expense.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2017.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council