

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

Minutes of the Meeting of March 29, 2018

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

Guests:

Efrain Sora, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Liaison

Mr. Anding called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Reyes made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on February 20, 2018 and Mr. Monasterio seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Mr. Anding said Aix received the letter from Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli after the delegation visit. The Mayor of Aix responded with a positive letter encouraging a business relationship. The Mayor of Aix stated they are committed to a smart city approach and have been awarded the French Tech label to develop an ecosystem of startup companies. Aix invited members of the IACC to visit as well as members from the business community. Mr. Anding said they should follow up with Leticia Perez from Economic Development. Ms. Paz said she forwarded Ms. Perez the response as well as the City Manager’s Office. Mr. Anding suggested Ms. Perez be

invited to the next meeting to provide an update. Mr. Monasterio suggested the next step should be taken before the summer months because most of Europe closes.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrete said he visited La Antigua recently and showed photos of the hospital. He said visiting the hospital was a life changing experience. There are about 300 children in wheelchairs that are built and assembled by one individual. Mr. Gavarrete asked him what he needed and the man said more wheelchairs. The hospital has six different buildings, each 3-4 floors. There are no elevators. The hospital is also a home for the Franciscan monks and the children. The hospital is run by 30% employees and the rest are volunteers. Mr. Gavarrete encouraged the board to visit. The board of the hospital is providing 40-50 percent of the cost to run the hospital while the rest of the cost is being provided through donations and local fundraisers.

Mr. Anding said he had contacted Ms. Kozloski who is in charge of Baptist Hospital's International Outreach. However, he did not receive a response from her. Lately, he spoke with Ms. Basauri who works in Ms. Kozloski's office; she offered to assist in the efforts to aid the hospital in La Antigua. Mr. Anding provided her with all the information in reference to the hospital. Mr. Anding gave the contact information of Ms. Basauri to Mr. Gavarrete and suggested that he get in contact with her.

Mr. Gavarrete said with the help of Mr. Sora he was able to work with the University of Miami's Medical Center and they are working on a list of items for the hospital. Mr. Monasterio asked what kind of items were on the list. Mr. Gavarrete said he would provide the list to the IACC board. Mr. Sora said they are working with UM's International Global Oncology Department to obtain lab services and equipment.

Mr. Gavarrete said he is planning a trip to Guatemala at the end of June and would like the IACC to attend. The round trip airfare is \$400 and they are working on a special hotel rate. Mr. Sora said he is interested in attending. Mr. Monasterio said he is interested as well and explained he had two specialties in medicine. Mr. Monasterio said he could visit the hospital and provide a more detailed observation of what they might need. Mr. Monasterio said wheelchair parts are probably essential because children with wheelchairs are very aggressive with them and they break easily. Mr. Anding asked if there are possibilities to rehabilitate the children so that they can walk. Mr. Gavarrete said the hospital has little hope they will be able to walk because of their conditions. He said it is very heartbreaking and they are doing the best with the situation they have been given.

Mr. Anding suggested looking at the fire trucks conditions. Mr. Gavarrete said the trucks are in working condition and have been used.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Monasterio said he is waiting to reschedule a meeting with the Mayor and Ms. Rendeiro to formalize the Aveiro relationship. Mr. Monasterio said Ms. Rendeiro's involvement is fundamental. Ms. Paz said she would reschedule the meeting as soon as possible. Mr. Anding asked if Ms. Rendeiro would be able to attend an IACC meeting to discuss the relationship. Ms. Paz said she would speak to Ms. Rendeiro but that she also has another board she is working with.

Mr. Pastor said the Consul General for Italy will be changing in a couple of months. He spoke with Consul General Bellelli who encouraged the IACC to have a friendship relationship with Como before having a Sister City relationship because she will soon be leaving her post. Mr. Pastor asked if was allowed to have more than one Sister City relationship within a country. The Board advised him it was possible. Mr. Pastor brought up Piza's emeritus status as one of the reasons to start Como off as a friendship city. Consul General Bellelli advised there is a procedure in Italy where the Foreign Ministry must approve the Sister City relationships. The local Consul General must approve the Sister City relationship. Mr. Pastor has not received a response from the initial contact in Como. Once the new Consul General arrives the Board will be able to present the potential relationship with Como.

Mr. Anding asked if there has been any contact with Como. Mr. Pastor said he made an indirect contact via an e-mail and a phone call. However, he has not received a response from the Mayor of Como. Mr. Anding suggested the activities should not be stopped due to the change of Consul General. Mr. Pastor said he agrees that the process should continue but does not want the efforts to be waster when the new consul general takes their post. He also recalled Mayor Cason signed an informal agreement with the City of Padova a friendship contract. This agreement was signed at the end of the term of the former consul general and that never came to fruition. Mr. Pastor said he would like to ensure that the relationship with Como is productive and fruitful. Mr. Pastor said he believes the relationships work best when there is a contact person on the other side.

Mr. Monasterio asked if a list could be compiled of potential exchanges to offer to another City. Ms. Paz said the Coral Gables website has further information under the Sister Cities section. Mr. Monasterio said the first thing he is always asked when attending meetings with potential Sister Cities is kind of relationships Coral Gables has to offer. Mr. Anding said the letters between Coral Gables and Aix has shown the potential for exchanges and should be used as a model.

Mr. Monasterio said if he reached out to Santander again and presented the proposal to the new mayor, he would like a list of potential relationships and what the City of Coral Gables has to offer. Mr. Anding said he could create a memo based on the letter Mayor Valdés-Fauli sent to Aix.

Mr. Anding asked if the letter for Turkey had been delivered. Ms. Paz informed the Board the letter had been sent but they have not received a response from Turkey. Mr. Anding said the Consul General of Turkey is very proactive and very involved. Mr. Anding would ask the Consul General about the potential relationship at his next meeting with the Consular Corps.

Mr. Monasterio asked about the status of San Isidro. Ms. Paz said Ms. Rendeiro would be meeting with the Mayor to discuss the relationship and would give an update after the meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mr. Sora reported the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce had a fly in to DC recently. The Consuls General were invited on the trip. They had a reception hosted by the Portuguese Ambassador at his home and have an interest in creating a relationship between Coral Gables and Aveiro. The Secretary of State of Portugal along with other dignitaries will be visiting the City of Coral Gables. Ms. Rendeiro will be able to provide further details. Mr. Anding asked if the IACC could be invited to meeting with the delegation of Portugal when they visit. Ms. Paz would be relaying the suggestion to Ms. Rendeiro.

Mr. Sora said during their trip to DC, they also met with the representatives of Sister Cities International. The Chamber agreed to be a conduit between the City and other organizations in other cities. Mr. Anding asked if the Chamber is willing to be involved with the relationship with Aix in addition to Ms. Perez from Economic Development. Mr. Sora reported he has not heard about the Chambers continued involvement. Mr. Anding suggested Mr. Sora reach out to Ms. Perez to maintain the Chamber involved because they had been part of the original luncheon.

Mr. Gavarrete mentioned there will be event in November 16th for Cumbre Ibero Americano where the King of Spain will visit La Antigua along with other dignitaries. Mr. Gavarrete will forward Ms. Paz further details.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2018.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council