

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Sister Cities Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of August 20, 2019

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Claudio Pastor	P	E	E	P	E	P	P	E	-	-	-	-	Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	Comm. Patricia Keon
Gabriel Garay	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	Comm. Michael Mena
Alejandra Collarte	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	E	P	P	-	-	-	-	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	-	-	-	-	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. Gavarrete
Quito, Ecuador – Mr. Garay
Sevilla, Spain- Ms. Cuzán

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

Staff in Attendance:

Beba Luzarraga, Assistant to the Mayor & Secretary, IACC
Jessenia Monge Fletes, Intern, Mayor’s office

Special Guests:

Leticia Perez, Coral Gables Economic Development Department
Beatrice Rangel, Innovation Consultant
Carolina Rendeiro, Florida State Representative for Sister Cities International

Chairwoman Lourdes Cuzán called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the IACC meeting of July 16, 2019. Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding updated the group on his conversation with his counterpart in Aix-en-Provence, Mr. Mayence. His counterpart was able to inform him of upcoming events taking place in Aix which he shared with the committee.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gaverrete reported that the inauguration of the newly elected Mayor of La Antigua, Victor Hugo del Pozo, will be held in January.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

No update on Cartagena, Colombia

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

Mr. Gavarrete discussed the itinerary for the upcoming trip to Santa Tecla, El Salvador in which he will participate alongside with Ms. Kadragic, Lemay Ramos of the Coral Gables IT department, and Mayor Valdés-Fauli. Per Ms. Kadragic, The Innovation Report will be distributed with packages prepared by the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

Mr. Garay shared a letter of introduction he prepared as part of his plan to introduce himself to the Consul General of Ecuador as the liaison to Quito, in an effort to reaffirm and further strengthen the relationship. The committee suggested having the letter sent by the Mayor's Office with both Mr. Garay and Mayor Valdés-Fauli's signature.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

No update on Sevilla, Spain

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Cuzán informed the board members that Mark Trowbridge, President & CEO of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce was unable to attend the meeting. Nonetheless, she reiterated that Mr. Trowbridge is still interested in strengthening the Flags on Ponce program through a mutual partnership. More details will be discussed during the next IACC meeting.

Ms. Collarte and Ms. Cuzán discussed the updated itinerary for the upcoming trip to Argentina. They reported that the mission will include several meetings with dignitaries from Cordoba and San Isidro. Mr. Anding addressed the importance of making connections in San Isidro for future programs and activities. Ms. Cuzán explained that the trip will be the perfect opportunity to explore channels of connectivity with the people and the administration of San Isidro. Ms. Cuzán, Ms. Kadragic, Ms. Collarte, and Ms. Rendeiro will participate on

the trip which is scheduled for September 21-27, 2019. Copy of the tentative itinerary will be attached to the minutes.

During the meeting Ms. Rangel informed the group that the Mayor of Quito is interested in promoting an art exhibition of his country's greatest artist, Oswaldo Guayasamín, during the 2020 HISPAFEST.

Ms. Cuzán took the opportunity to address the guidelines of the IACC committee. She explained the need for anyone working with the Coral Gables Museum, or any other entity, to reach out to the IACC committee regarding any events or exhibits concerning our Sister Cities to ensure the council's participation in the programming.

Ms. Kadragic volunteered to explore possible Sister Cities in the eastern part of Germany. She will first reach out to the Consul General of Germany in Miami. Mr. Anding offered assistance with this effort.

Ms. Rendeiro briefly discussed an ongoing project between U.S Sister Cities and Sister Cities International proclaiming a call for compassion, peace, and community regarding mass shooting in countries all around the world.

Additionally, Ms. Rendeiro, as the honorary Consul of Portugal in Miami, would like for IACC to reconsider the possibility of approving a sister city relationship with Aveiro, Portugal. Discussion ensued by the board members and several issues were discussed regarding this request. After much discussion Ms. Cuzán agreed to meet with the Mayor for his reassessment of this request.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Beba Luzarraga
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council
and
Jessenia Monge-Fletes
Intern, Mayor's Office