

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Sister Cities Committee
Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 19, 2022

Location: City Hall Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, 2nd Floor, Coral Gables, FL 33134

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Raul Valdes-Fauli	P	P	X	P	P	E	X	X	X	A	X	E	Mayor Vince Lago
Volker R. Anding	P	P	X	P	P	P	X	X	X	P	X	P	Vice Mayor Michael Mena
Brett Gillis	P	P	X	P	P	P	X	X	X	P	X	P	Comm. Rhonda Anderson
Richard Montes de Oca	P	E	X	A	P	P	X	X	X	P	X	P	Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Sadia M. Raja	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	Comm. Kirk Menendez
Alejandra Collarte	P	A	X	P	P	P	X	X	X	P	X	E	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	X	P	E	P	X	X	X	P	X	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

A = Absent P=Present E= Excused UA= Unexcused Absence X= No Meeting -=Former Member

- The International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.
- Vice Chair Anding welcomed everyone to the International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC). Ms. Perez informed the Board members that she had received an email from Mrs. Collarte excusing herself today because of a previous engagement. Also, Chairman Valdes-Fauli called to excuse himself due to medical reasons. Mr. Gillis made a motion to excuse both members and Mr. Gavarrete second the motion and the rest of the board members voted in favor. Vice Chair Anding continued with the agenda and announced that the third item on the agenda was the approval of the October 17, 2022, meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (October 17, 2022)

- Before approving the minutes Vice Chair Anding had two suggestions, he said that on page two, second paragraph, to add “South” Africa after Cape Town, and under La Antigua Guatemala, page four, second paragraph to write “Foreign Minister” instead of Chancellor. Vice Chair Anding made then a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Gavarrete second the motion and the rest of the board members voted in favor.
- Vice Chair Anding called the next item on the agenda, *Welcome and Introduction of New Board Member*, Sadia Raja. Mrs. Raja Introduced herself, she informed the Board Members that she has been a resident of Coral Gables for the last 10 years, she has 2 kids that are involved in the soccer team at Coral Gables; she has a doctorate in Pharmacy Practice and work at South Miami Hospital in Emergency Medicine and she is married to a native Miamian, she added that she has a historic

home which she loves, and she is very happy to be on this committee. Vice Chair Anding and the rest of the Board members went ahead and gave a brief introduction of themselves.

COUNTRY REPORT

CITY OF STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA

- Mr. Gillis informed Board members that he is moving forward with formalizing a Sister City agreement with the City of Stellenbosch, which it will make Coral Gables the first sister city for Stellenbosch. They are also in the process of becoming a member of the Sister City International. He also added he is waiting to hear back from the office of the mayor which would likely happen after the New Year.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

- Mr. Gavarrete informed that the Consulate of Guatemala recently moved to the City of Coral Gables, and they have not done a ribbon cutting because they have not finished the installation of the flag and the sign outside the building.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR

- Mr. Gavarrete added that Santa Tecla is quiet at the moment and that there is nothing to report.
- Vice Chair Anding suggested to Mrs. Raja that at the next meeting, when Chairman Valdes-Fauli is present, they should have a discussion on what country she should be assigned.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

- Ms. Perez informed the Board members that she received an email from Sophia Archbold from the office of the Mayor of Cartagena, and they are still very interested in reactivating the Sister City relationship with the City of Coral Gables. She added that she will bring this to the Chairman's attention on the next IACC meeting.

- **QUITO, ECUADOR**

Mr. Montes de Oca introduced himself briefly to Mrs. Sadia Raja and informed the Board Members that Mrs. Perez has shared with him recently the contact information for the Mayor of Quito so he can reach out and discuss the reactivation of the Sister City agreement between both cities. Mr. Montes de Oca added that once he is in contact with the Mayor of Quito, he would like to prepare the agreement and outline the new objectives. He reported also, that on February 5, 2023, the midterm elections will be held in Ecuador. He added that it will be best to contact the office of the mayor after these elections are over, in case a new Mayor is elected in Quito.

- Vice Chair Anding stated that we should get a clarification whether a new agreement for a Sister City relationship with Quito should be done or not. Mr. Montes de Oca agreed with Vice Chair Anding and added that it will be a good idea to contact the Sister City International Organization and find out if we need to go through another formal signing ceremony, since the City of Coral Gables did a resolution on this Sister City relationship back in 2019 and it is now on file.
- Mr. Montes de Oca gave the floor to Mrs. Belkys Perez to report on a meeting she had with Dr. Paulo Pena, CEO of Empresa Electrica, Quito, Ecuador. Mrs. Perez told the Board members that this delegation consisted of 5 representatives 2 from Quito, Ecuador and 3 from Consuladvisors LLC, Miami Florida. The Meeting took place in City Hall, First Floor conference room.

Matt Anderson, Sustainability Manager for the City of Coral Gables was invited to meet with these representatives from Quito to discuss the city's sustainability efforts, the city's green fleet, and adding more charging stations throughout the city, etc. She mentioned the main reason for their visit to Coral Gables was to establish a smart city network. After the meeting was over, they were taken to the Police & Fire Headquarters for a tour of the IT Communication Center and the Emergency Operating Center given by the city's IT Director Raimundo Rodulfo. Mr. Rodulfo explained to the group all aspects & framework of the City's IT network 5-year process. Mrs. Perez also added that what this delegation is looking for is some sort of understanding or agreement between Quito & the City of Coral Gables so we can share best practices with them.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

- As per Vice Chair Anding there are no updates to report. He shared with the board members that he attended a meeting of the International Committee at the Beacon Council, and the new French Consul General, Mr. Raphael Trapp made a presentation and during the discussions he mentioned the various Sister City relationships including, Aix-en-Provence. Vice Chair Anding told Mr. Trapp that he was in charge of Aix-en-Provence for the Coral Gables Sister City's Committee. Mr. Trapp was very pleased to now the complete cooperation of the American football teams between the two cities.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Mr. Gillis raised a question about the Fink Studio. He wanted to know if the Studio is officially opened, he would like to meet there next year. Mrs. Perez informed that the studio is not fully open, she is anticipating work to be completed by February of 2023, but she is not sure, she will keep everybody posted.
- Mr. Montes the Oca wanted to know if there is a list of all the International Events that are happening in Coral Gables. I informed him that we only know of one that is happening in March or April, and this is the Carnival of Barranquilla. No dates for this event have been determined yet.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Leticia Perez
International Business Development Representative
Economic Development Department
City of Coral Gables