

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

Minutes of the Meeting of December 19, 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	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Israel Reyes	P	P	E	P	P	X	P	P	X	P	E	E	Comm. Frank Quesada
Alma Kadragic	-	-	-	-	-	X	P	P	X	P	E	P	Vice Mayor Patricia Keon
Claudio Pastor	-	-	-	-	-	X	P	P	X	E	P	E	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	E	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	-	-	-	-	-	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

Ms. Cuzan called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Monasterio made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on November 21, 2017 and Mr. Anding seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Mr. Anding said he spoke with his counterpart in Aix. He has not received any information from the delegation that visited Coral Gables. Mr. Anding spoke with Mr. Betancourt about giving Aix input on how the relationship should proceed and a follow-up on the business side as well. Mr. Anding would then forward the suggestions to his counterpart and wait to hear back their suggestions. Ms. Cuzan stated it is important to follow up and not lose the momentum from their

visit. Mr. Anding said he would speak to Mr. Betancourt and come up with a plan to send his counterpart in Aix after the holiday season.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrete thanked the Board for welcoming Mr. Ascoli to the last meeting. Guatemala is very happy with the City's welcoming and desire to help. Mr. Ascoli will have a meeting in later December. Ms. Cuzan asked if he or Mr. Ascoli have contacted any of the hospitals that were discussed in the last meeting. Mr. Gavarrete said he had contacted the University of Miami Hospital and had approached two other hospitals. Mr. Anding is still pending an email summary from Mr. Ascoli so that he may forward it to the Director of Baptist Hospital.

Mr. Sora from the Chamber was hosted by a group based out of Florida to go to Venezuela to help with their medical efforts. There was also a Guatemalan group involved as part of the mission. Mr. Sora said he could forward Mr. Gavarrete's contact information to the group to see if they could be of any assistance with the efforts in La Antigua.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

Ms. Cuzan said Cartagena is still very committed but they have not moved forward with the letter they promised to send. The beginning of the year should bring a good measure on their part. They are still very interested in the fire extrication training. That will be the first program with Cartagena. It is just a matter of the interim mayor of Cartagena to decide what they will be offering for the training.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kadragic said that Turkey is quiet but the Consulate is looking for a Sister City to suggest to Coral Gables. Their cities are very large compared to Coral Gables. The Consulate of Turkey is reaching out to suburb cities in Istanbul and Ankara. Mr. Monasterio asked about the original city in Turkey that had reached out to the IACC. Ms. Kadragic said the Consulate is now involved with finding a city. Ms. Kadragic would mention the city that had reached out to the IACC to the Consul General. Mr. Monasterio later mentioned the original city in Turkey was Sisli.

The relationship with San Isidro is moving forward. Ms. Cuzan said it would be a great opportunity for the Chamber to travel to Argentina on a business mission. Mayor Valdés-Fauli is looking to go early in 2018.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mr. Monasterio asked Ms. Paz to reschedule his meeting with Ms. Rendeiro and the Mayor to discuss Portugal and the next step to finalize the agreement with Aveiro.

Mr. Anding asked about Avila relationship. Mr. Monasterio said all communication has been verbal and the Board needs to decide what type of exchange they would like to have with Avila before an agreement is signed. Ms. Cuzan said they should begin to develop a program for the next meeting to propose to Avila.

Mr. Sora mentioned that Avila puts on a yearly medieval festival and that would be one way to contribute and start a relationship. Mr. Sora said Vizcaya used to put together a festival. Ms. Cuzan said that would be a good starting point and the board could work with the County to put together a festival. The festival takes place during the months of September or October.

Mr. Anding attended the Sister City meeting of Miami Dade County in representation of the IACC. Ms. Rendeiro attended the meeting as a national representative and the Florida representative. Ms. Rendeiro gave a presentation on Sister Cities particularly that there are 174 Sister Cities in Florida, out of those there are 71 in Miami Dade County. Recently, there have been elections for the national Sister Cities board. For the first time ever there are 9 active business professionals. This shows a shift in the cultural exchanges to more economical and business exchanges. In addition, there are a number of youth representatives. There is a deliberate attempt to refocus the national board and a signal for local boards to put business relationship at the forefront. Ms. Cuzan ran into Mr. Manny Gonzalez from the County who expressed interest in working with Coral Gables on the Sister Cities program. Mr. Gonzalez would be scheduling more meetings to discuss the Sister Cities program. Mr. Anding said that several of the Sister Cities meetings for the County actually take place in Coral Gables.

The Chamber hosted the Turkish Consul General last month. The Chamber could be way to facilitate the communication with the Turkish Consulate.

The flags over Ponce de Leon initiative by the Chamber hosted their kicked off for the new flags about two weeks ago. The flags should be up soon. Ms. Cuzan asked if there was a list of the countries that are not participating. Mr. Sora said that this year's flags purchases have closed because they need to purchase the flags ahead of time. The IACC had a lengthy discussion on working with the Chamber to purchase flags for next year, specifically, the flags for the Sister City countries.

Mr. Sora visited Santiago de los Caballeros in the Dominican Republic and delivered a book from Mayor Valdés-Fauli on the City of Coral Gables. The gentleman was ecstatic to receive the book and would like to schedule a visit to Coral Gables to meet with the Mayor in 2018. They would like to start a relationship with Coral Gables. Santiago de los Caballeros is the second largest city in the Dominican Republic. They are on the northern part of the island. There is a lot of agricultural wealth. There is a medical school.

Mayor Valdés-Fauli had lunch with the Consul Generals of Italy and Spain. However, nothing has come about any relationships with cities in those countries yet.

The Reception for the Boards and Committee will be January 25th at the Coral Gables Country Club. Ms. Paz reminded the board to RSVP.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2018.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council