

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

Minutes of the Meeting of September 17, 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	P	-	-	-	Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Claudio Pastor	P	E	E	P	E	P	P	E	E	-	-	-	Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	Comm. Patricia Keon
Gabriel Garay	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Volker Anding	P	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	P	-	-	-	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	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:

Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli, City of Coral Gables
Leticia Perez, Coral Gables Economic Development Department
Beatrice Rangel, Innovation Consultant

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 August 20, 2019. (Minutes from the previous meeting were not approved, will be presented for approval at the next meeting)

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding reminded the committee of the agreement made with Raimundo Rodulfo, Director of the Information Technology department, to keep the members informed of his ongoing collaboration with Aix-en-Provence IT department. A full report by Mr. Rodulfo was presented to the board. At this time, no further updates were provided by Mr. Anding.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

No update on La Antigua, Guatemala

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

No update on Cartagena, Colombia

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

No update on Santa Tecla, El Salvador

QUITO, ECUADOR:

A discussion ensued regarding the dormant relationship between Quito and Coral Gables. Mayor Valdés-Fauli and Ms. Cuzán agreed that perhaps sending a letter to the Consul General of Ecuador in Miami would be less effective than setting up a meeting with the Consul General. Mr. Anding agreed to assist in this effort as a member of the Consular Corps.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

Ms. Cuzán updated the group of her conversation with the Mayor's Office in Sevilla which they restated that the Mayor will visit Coral Gables in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Valdés-Fauli addressed the concern of the board to revisit a partnership agreement with Aveiro, Portugal as a Sister City. Mayor Valdés-Fauli clarified that Aveiro does not have any commonalities with Coral Gables and further explained that the lack of interest to collaborate with the City of Coral Gables does not reflect a city willing to initiate a goodwill bond. He graciously expressed his gratitude and support for Carolina Rendeiro, Florida State Representative for Sister Cities International and the Honorary Consul of Portugal, while also affirming his interest to consider the possibility of a Sister City with Portugal. Mr. Anding agreed that there must be a common link between Coral Gables and the proposed city; however, he clarified that the political structure of Aveiro is different. Mr. Anding explained that the President of the Chamber of Commerce is the one with the authority to accept the possibility of an international relationship with Coral Gables, not the Mayor. He further stated how significant it is to have Ms. Rendeiro as the Honorary Consul of Portugal because she can be of great assistance during and after the signing of a Sister City agreement with Portugal.

Mark Trowbridge, President and CEO of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, addressed the Flags on Ponce Program. He provided historical and general information about the program and explained that the Chamber can no longer take full responsibility. He requested assistance from IACC and the countries liaison support to reach out to the Consulate General of their assigned country for sponsorship of their flags. He further confirmed the request from the Chamber to collaborate with the city of Coral Gables, in an effort to strengthen the program. He explained that the city will be responsible for the setup and removal of the flags. Mayor Valdés-Fauli suggested generating a resolution which will state that the city will be involved in the program. A motion was made by Ms. Kadragic and seconded by Mr. Anding for the city commission to consider the city's participation in the Flags on Ponce program with the Chamber of Commerce. All in favor, the motion was approved unanimously. Furthermore, Mr. Anding suggested recognizing the sponsors of the flags through a plaque display which the committee agreed on.

Ms. Rangel updated the group of a presentation made to the Consul General of Brazil in Miami and the head of HBO who was present at the meeting regarding the enhancement of various entertainment concepts. The events will include the book launch of *Por Que o Brasil É Um País Atrasado?* by Prince Luiz Philippe de Orléans e Bragança, a showing of several Brazilian movies at the Coral Gables Art Cinema which will coincide with the Miami Film Festival, a summer display of Brazilian spice, and a showing of Brazilian and Italian furniture's during Art Basel. Furthermore, Ms. Rangel discussed the possibility of obtaining sponsorship from the ethanol industry to support these events. Ms. Cuzán also suggested the possibility of receiving sponsorship from HBO to fund the Brazilian flag.

ANNOUCEMENTS:

Mr. Trowbridge and Ms. Collarte updated the committee on the trip to Argentina where 25 delegates will participate including Mayor Valdés-Fauli. The visit will consist of several meetings with dignitaries and the signing of a partnership agreement with the city of San Isidro, Buenos Aires. A full report will be provided to IACC after the trip.

Ms. Cuzán updated the group of a letter received from Michelle Cormier from Aix-en-Provence regarding Curtillet Khatcherian, owner and manager of Maryline K beauty salon that recently opened at 80 Miracle Mile in Coral Gables. The committee agreed that they will visit the salon and advertise the fact that the owner is from Aix-en-Provence. Ms. Cuzán explained that this is the perfect opportunity to demonstrate the success of having a relationship with Aix.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

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