

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

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

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

Guests:

Beatrice Rangel, Innovation Council Consultant
 Leticia Perez, Coral Gables Economic Development Department
 Michael Rocha, Coral Gables Multi Media Production Manager

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 November 25, 2019. Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Pastor seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

No new update on Aix-en-Provence.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrate informed the members that the new administration in La Antigua will change in the month of January and the newly appointed Consul General of Guatemala in Miami will take office on January 15, 2020. He also shared with the committee that the new Mayor of La Antigua will be in Miami due to a layover and he will use the opportunity to meet with him. A brief discussion about Dunia Miranda-Mauri, former Trade Commissioner of Guatemala in Coral Gables ensued regarding her new role within the administration. More information to come.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

No new update on Cartagena, Colombia.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

Michael Rocha, the Coral Gables Multi Media Production Manager presented a video of the visit of the Mayor and several committee members to Santa Tecla which included the events that took place during a three day visit in November. Mr. Rocha reported that the events were effectively promoted throughout Coral Gables social media and Santa Tecla successfully reposted all the events as well.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

No new update on Quito, Ecuador.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

Ms. Cuzán reported that with the support of the Mayor, she met with representatives from the Spanish Consulate and dignitaries from Sevilla with regards to the event, “Feria of Sevilla” which will take place in Giralda Plaza. The tentative dates for the event are May 8th through the 16nd of the upcoming year. She further stated that Mayor Juan Cejas Espada will send a formal letter to Mayor Valdés-Fauli expressing his support and participation which will be his first official visit to Coral Gables. Ms. Cuzán requested to meet with Mayor Valdés-Fauli and a report will be provided to the members after the meeting.

SAN ISIDRO, ARGENTINA

Ms. Collarte explained that Argentina is primarily concentrating on the country’s economy. Due to the new political measures it is hard to foresee a relationship with San Isidro. Mr. Anding also expressed concern with the situation and the difficulty that it presents. Ms. Luzarraga communicated with Leonardo Rodriguez of San Isidro regarding the selection of an image which will be added to our gallery at the Sister Cities room.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pastor reiterated that due to the severe flooding in Venice, Italy a relationship will not be possible at this time. However, he stated that the issue is of much interest to the City of Coral Gables and can serve as a common element to both cities. The City, through our Public Affairs department agreed to tweet in support of “#AmericalovesVenice”. Mr. Anding reported that in the past, when Jim Cason was Mayor of the City of Coral Gables, they worked with Hal Wanless, Professor at the University of Miami, in a sea level rise awareness campaign.

Mr. Gavarrete shared with the members that Richard Hansen, an archeologist from Guatemala, met with the Mayor regarding a new-found city in the Northern part of Guatemala known as el Mirador Basin Project, a huge city of the size of Los Angeles. Mr. Hansen will visit Coral Gables in January to present the committee with more information on the project. Furthermore, Ms. Cuzán requested that Ms. Luzarraga follow up with Mayor Valdés-Fauli and the City Manager to determine a date and location

UPDATES:

Ms. Cuzán and Ms. Rangel thanked Ms. Luzarraga for her assistance during the Mario Varga Llosa event.

Ms. Rangel updated the committee with the new date for the launch of the book of Prince Luiz Philippe de Orléans e Bragança, “*Por Que o Brasil É Um País Atrasado?*” that changed to March 2020 due to grammatical errors. She explained that she contacted an editor from New York who advised that the book will be edited by April 11, 2020.

As a result of last month’s meeting Ms. Rangel has been introduced to the Arts and Culture Board of Coral Gables. She will attend the meeting of December 20 and will present information regarding HispaFest.

The new dates and times for next year’s meetings were discussed and adopted as follows:

- The meetings for the month of January and February will take place the 2nd Monday of the month at 3:00 P.M
- The meetings from March through December will take place on third 3rd Monday of the month at 3:00 P.M.

A listing of dates will be distributed to members at the next meeting

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

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