

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

Minutes of the Meeting of April 16, 2019

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	P	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Israel Reyes	E	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Patricia Keon
Claudio Pastor	P	E	E	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Michael Mena
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	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. Monasterio
- Quito, Ecuador – Mr. Reyes
- Sevilla, Spain- Ms. Cuzán/ Dr. Monasterio

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

Staff in Attendance:

- Beba Luzarraga, Secretary, IACC
- Jessenia Monge-Fletes, Intern, Mayor’s office

Guest:

- Leticia Perez, International Business, Coral Gables Economic Development Department

Vice Chairman Volker Anding called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was present. Chairperson, Lourdes Cuzán was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the IACC meeting of March 19, 2019. Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Mr. Anding opened the meeting by greeting the members of the committee.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding reported that Raimundo Rodulfo, the director of Information Technology in Coral Gables, reached out to him after receiving correspondence from his counterpart in Aix-en-Provence, in which he specified receipt of both emails previously sent. He was grateful to Ms. Cuzan and Ms. Leticia Perez for helping him reach the right parties to finalize communication. He also reported that both IT directors will be holding a phone conference April 23rd regarding Information Technology.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrete announced Mayor Susan Asensio's intention to visit the City of Coral Gables to meet Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli. Mr. Anding suggested hosting a reception for Mayor Asensio and her delegation. Additional details will be forthcoming.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

No update on Cartagena, Colombia.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

Mr. Gavarrete confirmed the arrival of the playground in Santa Tecla and they have already identified the location where it will be installed. However, he informed the group that it didn't include an instruction manual and without that it will be difficult for them to reassemble the playground. He is currently searching for instructions of similar makes and models.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

Mr. Reyes reported that his contact with the Consul General of Quito in Miami, Pamela Jalil Garcia was successful, and they have agreed to become a full-fledged Sister City again. An official signing ceremony (originally scheduled for April 25th) will be scheduled in the near future. Mr. Reyes also announced that he will be stepping down as a member of the committee to give the new commissioner an opportunity to appoint a new member.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

Dr. Monasterio reported elections in Sevilla will be held during the upcoming months and clarified that our Sister Cities relationship should not be affected. No other update on Sevilla at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Pastor reported that due to a new administration in Como, Italy the Sister City relationship will not take place. He explained that over the course of five years IACC has worked tirelessly to find Sister Cities willing to work together through a mutual understanding between our communities. He announced his

intention to find other Sister Cities with the approval of Mayor Valdés-Fauli. He asked the group to let him know of any suggestions for an Italian Sister City. Mr. Anding would like to make sure there is an information technology component considered when a new Sister City is presented.

Mr. Pastor announced that the Societa Dante Alighieri moved to a new gallery space, which will be open on June 1st. It can be used for events such as small concerts and art exhibits. He offered the site for Sister Cities events and meetings.

Ms. Kadragic reported that the Coral Gables Consular Corps reception hosted by the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for May 29th. She extended the invitation to the group due to our relationship with the Chamber of Commerce which helps to preserve and develop fruitful relationships through business connections. Mr. Anding suggested a visual display of the Coral Gables Sister Cities flags or pictures during the reception. Ms. Kadragic recommended the idea of having an updated Sister City brochure and Mr. Anding requested proposing the idea to Mayor Valdés-Fauli.

Mr. Anding briefly discussed San Isidro, Buenos Aires. He requested that Ms. Luzarraga remind the Mayor of the IACC intention to consider San Isidro as a Sister City.

Dr. Monasterio reported on his personal visit to Tequila in Jalisco, Mexico. A relationship with the Agave Group existed when Jim Cason was Mayor of Coral Gables. The Agave group is the developer of Plaza Coral Gables on Ponce de Leon. At this time, there has been no approval of creating a sister city .

Ms. Perez reported the visit of a delegation from Romania to Miami-Dade County who invited the City of Coral Gables to join them. The delegation was impressed with the City due to its architectural and cultural difference.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

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