

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

Minutes of the Meeting of February 16, 2016

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	E	P	E	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	E	Mayor Jim Cason
Israel Reyes	P	E	P	E	X	X	-	E	P	E	X	P	Vice-Mayor Frank Quesada
Carolina Rendeiro	E	P	P	P	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Nancy Sanabria	E	P	E	P	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	-	-	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Jeannett Slesnick
Steve Edelstein	E	P	P	P	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	P	Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City Manager
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	-	-	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

Country Appointed Liaisons:

Pending – Ms. Rendeiro
 Quebec, Canada – Mr. Edelstein
 Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzan
 Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding
 Antigua, Guatemala – Ms. Sanabria
 Pavia, Italy – Mr. Monasterio
 Granada, Spain – Mr. Reyes

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused
X = No Meeting

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guest: Alma Kadragic, Chamber of Commerce liaison

Ms. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on October 20, 2015 and Mr. Monasterio seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

PAVIA, ITALY:

Ms. Rendeiro said that the Mayor would like to look other viable options because of Pavia’s lack of response. Ms. Rendeiro spoke with the Consul General of Italy to see what they could do. Ms. Rendeiro spoke with the trade commissioner of Italy to try to push for a new city.

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

Ms. Sanabria said that she has been receiving pictures from the trade commissioner who is there with the newly elected Mayor of Antigua. The trade commissioner was going to meet with the Mayor and would be reporting back. Mayor Cason had sent a letter to the new mayor of Antigua to welcome her officially.

Ms. Sanabria said that she would like to have a special meeting to talk about the Farmer's Market on the February 25th at 2:30 PM if there is availability with Lourdes Cuzan, Norma Gavarrete, and Dunia Miranda to speak about an Antigua booth. Mr. Edelstein said that he remembered speaking about a City table with IACC information on it as well as a Sister City booth. Mr. Edelstein said that Sunday the Village of Pinecrest hosts a farmer's market, and most of the people at our farmer's market attend Pinecrest's as well.

Ms. Sanabria said that recently she has received requests for photos on the fire trucks because there is an air lift certification letter that needs to accompany the fire trucks. Ms. Sanabria said that this is in addition to the requirements of the SOUTHCOM application. Denton, who is the transporter of the trucks, is requiring this additional information. Ms. Sanabria reached out to Jose, who had originally helped with the application, and he is sending the original photos but it is likely that more photos and details will be required. Mr. Edelstein said that they had originally sent photos specifically of the undercarriage to see how the trucks would be fastened during transport. Denton was asking specific questions about length, height, which was included on the truck data sheets. Ms. Sanabria has not received further requests and is hopeful that the trucks will be shipped soon. Ms. Sanabria said that in the future they could look for a better way to transport the trucks. Mr. Edelstein suggested that after the trucks are shipped, that they should sit down and look through all the information they have obtained on how to ship the trucks to come up with a list of procedures. Ms. Sanabria said that last time they shipped a truck, they had driven it down and did not have to go through this lengthy process. Ms. Sanabria said that now that Antigua has a new Mayor, they should have better participation from their government to ship items. Mr. Edelstein suggested to speak to Denton and ask their for guidelines on how to ship with them for next time. Ms. Sanabria said that she believes that it could be incorporated into their application process, although each shipment and vehicle may have particular requirements.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding said that he has had an exchange of e-mails with his contact in Aix. The contact in Aix said that he would get back to Mr. Anding within a reasonable time with comments on the suggestions he had made back in November. Mr. Anding contacted him for a follow up and had a brief exchange which was very positive and proactive. Ms. Rendeiro asked if Aix would be doing something in our area within the next few months since they have always been so proactive. Mr. Anding said that he did not indicate of any events. Mr. Edelstein said that normally they receive e-mails when Aix is having events with their other Sister Cities.

Mr. Anding said that he responded to an email he had received from Aix asking him if he had received the notice for a contribution or dues. Mr. Anding acknowledged the email and let them know he had received it but did not elaborate. Mr. Anding said that they had discussed that they had never paid a fee. Mr. Edelstein mentioned that in the time that he was the liaison, he had never received a request for a contribution. Mr. Edelstein said that in 2006 residents from the community collected \$3,000 to which the City matched for their assistance for the Statue of Cisan. Mr. Edelstein mentioned that they the City of Coral Gables was the only one to contribute out of Aix's 17 other sister cities. Mr. Edelstein said he did not feel comfortable contributing to their operating costs for the IACC.

GRANADA, SPAIN:

Mr. Monasterio made contact with the vice mayor of Santander to see what they are looking for. Santander would like to have a business exchange as well as cultural. Ms. Rendeiro said that they had been approached by Miguel Torres. Mr. Torres was looking to make Malaga a sister city. Ms. Sanabria informed them of the procedure of how to become a sister city. Mr. Monasterio said that the Mayor of Santander would not be attending the event Sister City Consular Reception. Ms. Rendeiro said that the mayors of Madrid, Pamplona, and Bilbao for the Chamber event called E-merge.

Mr. Edelstein brought up that the council had spoken about putting the Granada in an emeritus status, however, he did not know if it had officially been done even though they are looking into other cities. Mr. Edelstein made a motion for Granada be officially been put in an emeritus status. Ms. Rendeiro asked for a second to open the floor for discussion. Mr. Anding seconded the motion. Ms. Edelstein said that Granada has been an issue for years saying that he will be visiting us. Mr. Anding asked where the Mayor of the City of Coral Gables stood on this issue. Mr. Edelstein said that the Mayor was leaning towards putting Granada in an emeritus status for their lack of response. Ms. Rendeiro said that Mayor Cason would like to have working cities. Ms. Rendeiro said that Granada is important because it is one of our older sister cities and is a large trade partner in South Florida along with our City housing the Consul General as well as many residents and the trade office. Ms. Rendeiro agrees that Granada should go into an emeritus status because of its lack of activity. Ms. Sanabria would second the motion to have Granada put on emeritus status.

Mr. Anding added to the motion to not only put Granada on an emeritus status, but also actively pursue an alternative Sister City in Spain. Mr. Edelstein amended the motion to keeping Granada as a Friendship City to not lose the relationship. Mr. Monasterio asked if they were to have Granada as a Friendship City, could they potentially at a later time put it back to a Sister City. Ms. Rendeiro and Mr. Edelstein said yes if they have room. Mr. Edelstein added that they have 7 positions for Sister Cities— one for each one on the Council. Ms. Sanabria said that she would be going to Granada soon and will try to contact him once more.

Ms. Rendeiro asked for a recap of the motion. Mr. Edelstein responded that the motion should be to make Granada a Friendship City instead of a Sister City and to actively seek a new Sister City. Ms. Rendeiro said that this is all subject to the approval of Mayor Cason. Ms. Rendeiro also stated that this would be a recommendation. Ms. Rendeiro re-read the motion made by Mr. Edelstein. Mr. Monasterio seconds the motion. The vote was unanimous.

QUEBEC, CANADA

Mr. Edelstein said that there was not much to report on Quebec other than they have requested the letter to the Mayor of Quebec City from Mayor Cason. The letter went out about a month ago, however, we have not received a response. Ms. Sanabria asked if there has been a follow up with the Consul General. Ms. Paz stated that the Office of the Mayor has been following up. Ms. Rendeiro mentioned how the Canadian Consul General would like to see this come to fruition. Ms. Paz said that the Mayor and the Consul General had conversed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Kadragic is a member of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce as an ex officio member.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Rendeiro spoke with Mayor Cason and has been reaching out to potential Sister Cities in Portugal. Ms. Rendeiro said the Portugal is a country with a tremendous ecosystem with opportunity. Ms. Rendeiro called the local government of Coimbra which houses the oldest university. Ms. Rendeiro said the city fit our criteria because it is small in population, it has agriculture, and it has cultural art and education. Ms. Rendeiro also contacted the City of Aveiro in Northern Portugal. Aveiro is a coastal city as well as university town. Aveiro's economy includes tourism and fishing. Ms. Rendeiro said that it is a beautiful city that includes parks and bird watching. Ms. Rendeiro also reached out to Sintra. Ms. Rendeiro has reached out to all their city officials and asked about their interest in having a Sister City within the United States and provided information about the City. All three cities have said they have an interest in partnering with the City of Coral Gables. Mr. Edelstein asked Ms. Rendeiro what was her preference out of the three. Ms. Rendeiro said that Aveiro, then Coimbra, then Sintra. Ms. Rendeiro said that Sintra, although beautiful, does not have many businesses and is more a tourist town. Ms. Rendeiro said that the Aveiro has an intricate canal system and the city has been remodeled.

Mr. Edelstein said that they have 7 sister Cities slots. They have one slot open in South America and are looking at putting Granada as a Friendship City, Italy is an open question. Mr. Edelstein asked which city would be replaced by the city in Portugal should they choose. Ms. Rendeiro said that the city in Portugal would take Pavia's spot. Mr. Monasterio said that if Santander works out than they would just change cities within Spain.

Mr. Edelstein said that there are a lot of cities within Spain that could be potential Sister Cities. Mr. Edelstein mentioned that the Mr. Anding could look into a city within Germany. Mr. Anding said it would be extremely difficult because most German cities have numerous Sister City partnerships already. Ms. Rendeiro said that they have to look into cities that do not have many Sister City partnerships already and mesh well with the City of Coral Gables because a strong relationship can be built. Mr. Monasterio said that they should look into the 3 potential cities in Portugal. Ms. Rendeiro said that she has the report done and will send it out to the City Commission. Ms. Rendeiro said that the ambassador from Colombia to Portugal will be Carmesa Jamarrillo who will take office in April.

Ms. Rendeiro reminded the Council of March 10th at 6:30PM at the Coral Gables Museum for the Sister City Leadership event. Ms. Rendeiro asked if the Foundation would be helping. Mr. Edelstein asked if there had been a vote and if the Mayor had approved. Ms. Rendeiro said that they had voted months ago and she thought the request had to go through the Foundation. Ms. Paz said the Mayor has read through the minutes and that what happen would be executed. Mr. Edelstein said that the IACC would make a recommendation, the recommendation is given to the Mayor and the Mayor approves the funds through the Foundation. Mr. Edelstein said that they do not do anything until they receive the request from the Mayor. Ms. Paz said the Mayor read through the minutes and is waiting for the Foundation so say yes. Mr. Edelstein said that they will send funding out when they get a request from the Mayor's Office. Ms. Paz said that they should send an email to the Mayor so that he can formally approve. Ms. Rendeiro said that the Miami Beach Mayor has provided a bus to bring the attendees from Miami Beach to the Coral Gables Museum. Ms. Rendeiro said that the Council is more than welcome to attend the board and committee meetings.

Mr. Edelstein asked if the Council was invited. Ms. Rendeiro said she invited this Council along with the councils of Miami Beach, Miami Dade County, City of Miami and Doral. Ms. Rendeiro said that she has only had responses from Miami Beach and the City of Miami. Ms. Rendeiro said she also invited some CEO of corporations that our involved with Sister Cities. Ms. Rendeiro said that the consul generals along with all the trade officers were invited.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2016.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council