

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

Minutes of the Meeting of February 10, 2020

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	E	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Claudio Pastor	P	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Alma Kdragic	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Patricia Keon
Gabriel Garay	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Volker Anding	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Michael Mena
Alejandra Collarte	P	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	E	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:

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

Chairwoman Lourdes Cuzán called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the IACC meeting of January 13, 2020. Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Kadragic seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Raimundo Rodulfo, the Coral Gables IT Director distributed an updated report regarding several initiatives between the City of Coral Gables and its Sister Cities. Copy of the report is attached.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrete reported on his conversation with the newly appointed Mayor of La Antigua, Guatemala, Victor Hugo del Pozo, where he expressed interest for future projects between Coral Gables and La Antigua. A verbal invitation to visit from Mayor del Pozo was extended to the committee members.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzán informed the members that a letter of congratulations was sent to the newly elected Mayor William Jorge Dau Chamat, through Aida Teresa Baladi Lequerica, a Coral Gables resident who agreed to act as a link for the city in an effort to further strengthen the relationship. The letter was personally delivered to the Mayor by Ms. Baladi Lequerica.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

Mr. Gavarrete informed the committee of his upcoming meeting with Mayor Valdés-Fauli and Ms. Cuzán to discuss future projects between Santa Tecla and Coral Gables. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

No new update on Quito, Ecuador.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

A discussion ensued regarding the “Feria de Sevilla” project which is tentatively scheduled for the month of May of 2020. The event will be presented to the Coral Gables Commission for approval. Mayor Valdés-Fauli expressed his support for the event.

SAN ISIDRO, ARGENTINA

No new update on San Isidro, Argentina

UPDATES:

Ms. Kadragic had no updates for Poland and Turkey.

Mr. Anding requested an update on the potential presentation by Richard Hansen, an archeologist from Guatemala, who discovered a new-found city in the Northern part of Guatemala known as el Mirador Basin Project. Mr. Gavarrete informed the members that the presentation will not take place, Mr. Anding requested to be notified of any upcoming events regarding the project.

Ms. Rangel updated the committee regarding confirmed projects celebrating Brazil. The events include the launch of a culinary book during Miami Spice, and a Brazilian furniture showcase. She informed the members that the president of Brazil will be traveling to Washington D.C and is planning to visit Coral Gables where Mayor Valdés-Fauli will present him with the key to the city. She also stated that Itamaraty, the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil have identified three potential Sister Cities: Rio Grande do Sul, Pretrópolis, and the capital of Goiânia. Ms. Rangel is also working with Coral Gables Art Cinema to bring Brazilian films to the film festival in Coral Gables next year.

Ms. Rangel also reported on an event held by the Consulate of France called the “Night of Ideas”. She suggested that the International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) collaborate with the Consul General in bringing this event to Coral Gables. The agenda included various topics, for example, climate change, fauna, use of drones for many daily functions, etc. Participants were about 30% in their 30’s. However, Mr. Anding also commented that it was very disorganized, the Consul General arrived very late, there was only one copy of the program and copies had to be made, the meeting was being conducted in English and Spanish (no French) and so on. It was agreed that a letter from Mayor Valdés-Fauli be sent to the Consul General to request that the City of Coral Gables be able to participate in a future program. Ms. Kadragic would like to assist in the organization of the proposed event in Coral Gables.

Ms. Cuzán reported that the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce has agreed to include Cartagena, Colombia to their trade mission which is tentatively scheduled for the week of April 27 – May 1, 2020. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Anding graciously thanked Mayor Valdés-Fauli for agreeing to host the Consulate Corp reception on April 23, 2020 at the Coral Gables Country Club. Mayor Valdés-Fauli suggested that Mr. Anding briefly discuss his accomplishments within the IACC at the reception.

Ms. Cuzán made a suggestion to invite the owner of the Maryline K Beauty Salon to attend the next City Commission meeting. Staff will follow up with the request to obtain approval.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

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