

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

Minutes of the Meeting of April 15, 2014

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Carolina Rendeiro	P	-	P	P									Comm. Patricia Keon
Nancy Sanabria	P	-	P	P									Comm. Vince Lago
Steve Edelstein	P	-	P	P									Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk
Lourdes Cuzan	P	-	E	P									Mayor Jim Cason
David Duckenfield	P	-	P	E									Comm. Frank Quesada
Art DeNunzio	P	-	P	P									Patrick Salerno, City Manager
Paul Posnak	P	-	E	E									Council-at-Large Appointment

Business Affiliation:

Frances Reaves = Excused

Chamber of Commerce liaison

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

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guest:

Craig Leen, City Attorney
Valarie Sutter, Coral Gables resident

Chairperson Ms. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. Edelstein to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 24, 2014. Mr. DeNunzio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Ms. Sanabria informs on her visit to La Antigua, and how well everything was planned and how Lex Cargo, who lives in Antigua, coordinated the visit with Mayor Edgar Ruiz. I was introduced to two business people in Guatemala, as well as several business owners and architects. They are looking for input from the city to renovate their plaza. Ms. Sanabria believes it would be nice to have someone translate the materials given to her at Antigua with their ideas for the improved plaza, she agreed to give them some feedback about their progress and talk to them about what has been done in Coral Gables. Ms. Sanabria met with Mayor Cason and he suggested that Coral Gables invite the people from Antigua to Coral Gables to show them what has been done here. Ms. Sanabria went to La Antigua's City Hall and met Mayor Ruiz and some of his counsel members. She extended the invitation from Mayor Cason to visit Coral Gables. Mayor Ruiz has his hands full, however. Mayor Ruiz is the Vice-Mayor who is serving as Mayor, because his predecessor was engaged in money laundering. His predecessor is

now in jail without bail along with four consul members. She goes on to mention that the army is cooperating with the police. They travel in pairs or in groups of five. Guatemala is becoming tougher on crime which has made traveling quite safe. Sixty-six percent of the people vote in elections; they can do so online. Ms. Sanabria says voting is transparent. Ms. Sanabria mentions she has not heard back from Mr. Robert Rosenberg the director of the Coral Gables Art Cinema concerning the “La Camioneta” and the possibilities of its showing at the Cinema in the future. Also while at Antigua, they were getting ready for the Lenten celebration, which is now considered the largest celebration in the world when they fill the streets of Antigua with decorative floats that weight 1000 pounds, which they carry through the streets. There will be a presentation at the Coral Gables Museum on May 15th, Ms. Sanabria has been asked to speak about the initiatives with Sister Cities. She mentions that her new grandchild’s due date is around this time and may not be there and proceeds to ask Ms. Rendeiro or Ms. Cuzan for assistance. They both agree not to worry that either would happily assist.

PAVIA, ITALY:

Mr. DeNunzio says there is still no agreement with Pavia, Italy, thus it’s not really a sister city as of yet and nothing additional to report.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE:

Mr. Edelstein did not have any updates regarding Aix-en-Provence.

CARTAGENA COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan met with Mr. Contreras, who was the individual who had the problem with the museum and that plan for an exhibit fell through. The University of Miami was willing to allow them to use the architecture exhibit room for an architecture exhibit with one of the most prominent architects in Cartagena who has done many restorations. Ms. Cuzan says it all went well, but she spoke with Mayor Cason saying that she was not comfortable doing anything with Contreras as he was not sponsored by the City Government. Ms. Cuzan said that she would need to speak to the architect personally. She says that the event is on hold. The consul general of Colombia said she was not very familiar with the gentleman but the impression she had was not a positive one. On another note I would like to inform that I received a phone call from Aida Teresa Baladi wishing a meeting with Mayor Cason to discuss a professional dance group from Cartagena Colombia “El Colegio del Cuerpo” that has performed all over the world at a different level and has made contact with us and will contact the University of Miami for a possible future event. I will keep the board informed.

MUSEUM USE OF SISTER CITY NAME:

City Attorney Craig Leen greeted and thanked the board for having him. He took the floor and discussion on how the Coral Gables Museum was using the Sister Cities name to misrepresent. City attorney informs of his meeting with Ms. Christine Rupp, Director of Operations of the Museum two months ago and stated they would notify the office of the Mayor when they receive any communication regarding Sister Cities events and to attend future IACC meeting and discuss any event that would involve the Sister Cities. Mr. DeNunzio says funding has not been allotted to the IACC or the Sister Cities program, most of the money goes to the museum and the museum always charges entrance fees when it holds an event. Sister Cities has never charged for their events. No entity can claim to be the City of Coral Gables other than the City. The Museum cannot claim to be having a Sister City event because they appear to be operating on the city’s behalf and are charging admission for their event when the City of Coral Gables has little to do with the event. Ms. Cuzan says there was recently a problem with an individual from Colombia because they wanted to hold an exhibit. The individual contacted the Museum directly for said

exhibit. Ms. Cuzan says what they (the museum) should do is immediately direct the individual to the person at the City of Coral Gables who handles the Sister Cities program or contact the Mayor's Office. However, instead of doing that the Museum started negotiating directly with the individual; it all fell apart. The Mayor of Cartagena had no idea what was going on. It created terrible miscommunication. The board believes that the Museum should not be using "Sister Cities" as a title. The members are concerned about whether there is a trademark seeing as Coral Gables is part of Sister Cities International. Ms. Rendeiro is on their board and agreed to check on the issue. Ms. Rendeiro says that there have been similar issues around the country and that Sister Cities International has come down hard on them. They sent out a cease and desist letter. Mr. DeNunzio says that the Museum has gone beyond what it was supposed to do. The Museum is bypassing the municipal agreements between the cities and have started contacting museums in the Sister Cities representing itself as the Coral Gables Museum as though it was the City of Coral Gables calling. However, the Coral Gables Museum is an independent entity. The board needs to determine whether the Sister Cities counsel can work with the museum given that the museum charges for the events. The board asks if there are restrictions of that sort in their by-laws. The board agrees to look into the by-laws.

Announcement:

They agreed to have the IACC meeting at 8:30a.m. instead of 8:00a.m.

May 8th and 9th there will be a Sister Cities meeting for the various cities involved in the program in Lakeland, Florida. Approximately 30 people will be there.

July 28th-August 3rd there will be a National Conference in San Jose, California; there will be a major focus on Latin America. 150 students from various countries will be attending; several inner city students as well from Miami. Dionne Warwick will be there as an entertainer for the event.

501(c)(3) has been unable to file. Must have the funds to issue the appropriate check; has been informed that there will be \$800.00 fee.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2014.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council