

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

Minutes of the Meeting of August 16, 2016

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

Country Appointed Liaisons:

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

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused
No Meeting

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guest: Alma Kadragic, Chamber of Commerce liaison
 Dunia Miranda-Mauri, Guatemala Trade Commissioner
 Rafael Gavarrete, Resident

Ms. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Cuzan made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on August 3, 2016 and Mr. Monasterio seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan said that Cartagena changed the Mayor’s arrival from September 7th to September 8th. Ms. Cuzan distributed the updated program. The Welcoming Reception is going to be September 8th from 5:30PM-8:30PM. The Coral Gables Museum gave a great rate because the reception is part of the Sister Cities program. Ms. Cuzan said that they waived expenses such as the rental of the venue. There will be an art exhibit at the event. Rincon Argentino will be doing the catering. Ms. Cuzan is still pending a bar sponsor. Ms. Miranda-Mauri said that she could put Ms. Cuzan in contact with a potential bar sponsor

that has a great selection of wine. Ms. Cuzan said she met with the City Manager for her approval of the presentations with City Directors. On Friday, September 9th the City Manager approved all the presentations to happen in the City Commission Chambers which eliminates the transportation of the delegation. The program will begin with Director Frank Fernandez giving a presentation with all the topics that Cartagena is interested in such as crime, security, development. After, there would be a presentation from the fire department. The fire department will be giving a demonstration of extrication.

Following the fire department there will be a lunch. The location is still tentative. However, they are looking at Seasons 52 as possible venue. Seasons 52 only has one private room so Ms. Cuzan is going to check if space will be sufficient. After lunch, the delegation will return to the commission chamber for a presentation with the Director of Parks and Recreations. Cartagena is very interested in a sports exchange program such as summer camp exchange with Coral Gables. There will be an arts and cultural presentation. Ms. Cuzan will be reaching out to Dante Aligeri to help with that event. Finally, Ms. Cuzan's firm will be sponsoring Mayor Cason, the Mayor of Cartagena and his assessor from Colombia, to a Marlins baseball game.

The two nights at the Westin Colonnade have been reserved. Ms. Cuzan is still holding off on the business delegate because she had not received from the Colombian Chamber of Commerce. She gave them a deadline of August 17th to receive a list of names and corporations of the delegates in order to match them with members of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Edelstein said they voted last meeting to approve \$1,300.00 for expenses from the Foundation. Mr. Edelstein said he has not heard from the Mayor to proceed. Ms. Paz said that is to be announced because they do not have finalized figures. Ms. Paz said that Mayor Cason has approved the hotel stay for the Mayor of Cartagena. However, they are still pending on the figures for the other expenses. Once those figures are received they will present them to the board once again. Mr. Edelstein asked if the figures would be before or after the event. Ms. Cuzan said she is planning to have all the figures by Friday, August 19th. The only major item pending is the bar for the welcome reception. Once they have that figure they will be able to proceed to request funding.

Ms. Rendeiro said she will be unable to attend the event because she will be out of town. However, as treasurer of the Foundation, if the event needs funding it must be before September 8th or after September 15th.

Ms. Cuzan said that the invitations are pending to be sent out. Mayor Cason gave the guest list for invitees. Others to be invited are the City Commission, the Columbian Consulate, the Colombian Chamber of Commerce and the IACC Board, as well as other Columbian agencies. Ms. Miranda-Mauri suggested that she could put her in contact with the bilingual teacher at Carver Middle School, she has worked on exchange programs at Carver Middle School.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Ms. Miranda-Mauri thanked the Committee for the second fire truck donation. Ms. Miranda-Mauri said that she received a call from La Antigua asking if Mayor Cason would be present for the fire truck presentation. She told the caller that Mayor Cason would not be able to attend. Ms. Miranda-Mauri stated that she would be traveling to Guatemala in November and La Antigua would like to have a humble ceremony thanking the City of Coral Gables. Ms. Miranda-Mauri suggested that Ms. Sanabria attend, if

her schedule permits, to represent the City. The ceremony would be the first or second week of November. Ms. Miranda-Mauri said that the whole committee is invited.

Ms. Miranda-Mauri met with Mayor Cason about an event being held on October 27th at the Coral Gables Museum for the launch of Mitología Maya. The Guatemalan Tourism Institute will be presenting the Mayan world, with the Mayan jewelry line, as well as a company called Ecofiltro, which is a filter for water to the communities. There will be Guatemalan gastronomy and music. Ms. Miranda-Mauri would like to support with involving the Coral Gables business community. Ms. Rendeiro would bring it up on the Business Improvement District attention at the next meeting. The Guatemalan Ambassador to the United States will be present. Ms. Miranda-Mauri said that the Mayor would be presenting a key to the City to the Ambassador. Ms. Sanabria asked about Books and Books involvement. Ms. Miranda-Mauri said Books and Books have agreed to carry the jewelry line in their 7 stores.

Ms. Rendeiro said the Ambassador for Guatemala was present when Coral Gables received the Humanitarian Award from Sister Cities. Ms. Miranda-Mauri said she is the first woman in Guatemalan history to be a foreign minister. She has been an ambassador in London as well. The Ambassador is one of the lawyers that drafted laws to protect women in Guatemala.

Mr. Edelstein said that Ms. Sanabria had spoken about the Air Force involvement in the transportation of the trucks. Chief Tony Rodriguez, of the United States Air Force, has been put up for a commendation. The ceremony would be at the Air Force base in Homestead. The ceremony set to be held on a Saturday at 7AM. Mr. Gavarrete will also be receiving commendation for his help in building the shoring kits. Ms. Miranda-Mauri said it would also be nice to invite Chief Rodriguez to the ceremony in November in La Antigua. Ms. Sanabria would keep the board posted on ceremony at the Air Force.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding said that his Aix contact had told him that July and August are very quiet months in France. Mr. Anding thanked Ms. Kadragic for sending him a comprehensive business investment guide issued by the Beacon Council. That information is exactly what Aix-En-Provence had requested about doing business in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Anding asked if there would be more information about doing business in Florida in general. Ms. Kadragic said that she did not have that information but to contact Enterprise Florida for further information. Ms. Rendeiro suggested going on the Florida Chamber of Commerce website for more information as well as Alice Ancona.

Ms. Kadragic said that Mr. Trowbridge had informed her that there were no unions in Florida because it was a right to work state. However, we have a teachers union. Mr. Anding asked for clarity on how that union is allowed but not general union. Mr. Reyes said that unions in Florida are more of a bargaining entity. For example a police officer can be part of the bargaining portion but not actually be a member of the union. Ms. Kadragic said you do not have to pay union fees as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mr. Monasterio asked about the update on Santander as a Sister City. Ms. Rendeiro said the process involves Sister Cities International sending a letter to the Consul General and to the US Ambassador in the country. Mr. Monasterio said he will email with the Consul General to follow up. Ms. Rendeiro will reach out to member from Sister City International for an update.

Mr. Edelstein asked what were the procedures to look into a Sister City in Bath, England. Ms. Rendeiro said that she would show Mr. Edelstein the procedure. Mr. Reyes asked what city they were waiting to hear from. Ms. Rendeiro said they are waiting on Santander.

Ms. Rendeiro said she did a Skype conference for a group of mayors in Brazil. She spoke in Portuguese about the impact that the Sister Cities program has on economic development. It went over very well. The mayor of Curitiba was present. Ms. Rendeiro touched on how as commissions change, they change their sister cities. Ms. Rendeiro suggested to them that they have legislation to not get rid of their sister cities. She is currently working on a video with the City of Coral Gables that touches on the impact that the Sister City international program can have.

Mr. Anding asked if the Brazil cities have Sister City programs already. Ms. Rendeiro said that most cities do have a program but they were interested in statistics and effectiveness of the program. Ms. Cuzan asked if Coral Gables would consider a relationship with a city in China. Ms. Rendeiro said it has been brought up a few times and would need to be further looked into. Ms. Cuzan she says she has a contact in China.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2016.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council