

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

Minutes of the Meeting of August 18, 2009

MEMBERS: **J J M A M F J D N O S A COMMISSIONERS:**

Allan Rosenbaum	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
Sylvester Lukis	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Steve Edelstein	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Carolina Rendeiro	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	E	E	E	E	P	Mayor Don Slesnick
Luba DeWitt	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Art DeNunzio	X	X	P	P	P	P	X	-	-	-	-	P	Patrick Salerno, City Manager
Paul Posnak	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	Council-at-Large Appointment

Ex Officio:

Deirdre Nero

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

X = No Meeting

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Jessica Wotherspoon, Economic Sustainability

Trevor Zakov, Intern, Office of the Mayor

Guests:

Mayor Don Slesnick

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was present.

Motion was made by Sylvester Lukis to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 28, 2009. Seconded by Steve Edelstein. Motion passed.

The Chair opened the session by welcoming everyone and thanking the Council members for accepting their appointments.

• INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Steve Edelstein, Lawyer, resident of Coral Gables for 36 years, represents the French Consulate, travels to France 1 – 2 times per year.

Mr. Sylvester Lukis, Lawyer, Lobbyist, Lived in France for several years.

Mr. Alan Rosenbaum, Florida International University, Director of Institute and Professor, International technical assistance for U.S. Government, U.N., past 15 years, close to 80 countries.

Ms. Luba DeWitt, Realtor for Coldwell Banker, former Chair of this board, 82 countries visited.

Ms. Carolina Rendeiro, Business Center International, Past Chair Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, welcomes new faces.

Mr. Art DeNunzio, local business person, involved in civic activities for many years.

- BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE:

Ms. Wotherspoon informed the members of several positions which needed to be discussed and filled. Positions needing to be voted on would be Board-as-a-Whole, Chairperson and a Vice-Chair. Ms. Rendeiro proceeds to ask if no one would be available to propose a member at large candidate. Mr. Edelstein suggests nominating Dr. Paul Posnak, a well known professor at the University of Miami. All members were familiar with Dr. Paul Posnak. Ms. Rendeiro calls for a vote and it is unanimous. Mr. Edelstein would then contact Dr. Paul Posnak to deliver this information.

- LA ANTIGUA:

Ms. Paz informed the members of a three day visit from the Delegation of our Sister City: La Antigua, which took place June 15th through June 17th, 2009. The Delegation was welcomed at City Hall and a three day agenda was provided. The agenda included tours of the Museum in Coral Gables the Historic exhibition inside the Old Spanish Village. They also attended a series of meeting with the Administration of the University of Miami and the Administration of Doctors Hospital. The Delegation also visited the City's Public Service Department where they toured through the Waste Management System, Facilities, Machinery and Deposits for Waste and Recycling. On the final day of their visit a farewell ceremony was held at the Coral Gables Fire Department, where fifteen retired "bunker gear" fire-suits were donated to the Fire Fighters of La Antigua.

- LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF PORTS:

Ms. Paz reported the visit of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) XVIII Latin American Congress of Ports on July 8th through July 10th, 2009 at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. This year, Florida was honored with hosting this prestigious Congress. More than 200 delegates from major hemispheric ports attended. The office of the Mayor worked diligently in making the Congress a success. Ms. Paz informed the board that The Mayor did personally meet and greet the representatives of our Sister Cities program and invited them to visit City Hall. The Mayor was pleased that the following day our office received word from General Henry Torres Moreno, Port Director of Cartagena, Columbia. The Mayor did meet with the General at City Hall.

COJUMA:

Ms. Paz informed the members of a conference which took place August 11th, 2009 at the Hyatt in Coral Gables. COJUMA is dedication to international relationship-building that has developed beyond any of the original parties' imaginations into a vibrant, powerful engagement tool for twelfth Air Force (12 AF), Headquarters US Air Force (USAF), US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), and the Department of Defense (DOD). It is by far the most successful legal engagement program in the history of the USAF, and the most successful legal engagement program in DOD. The Mayor attended and opening remarks were made on behalf of the City and Commission.

- CORAL GABLES CHAMBER TRADE MISSION TO COLOMBIA AND CARTAGENA:

Ms. Rendeiro reported the dates of the mission being April 20th through April 25th, 2009. She also mentioned the Mayor's participation at Cartagena, Colombia. Ms. Rendeiro stated that her company sponsored dinner one evening, Cartagena Chamber of Commerce sponsored a dinner, and the Mayor sponsored a dinner one evening (in Cartagena). The Chamber of Commerce in Cartagena set up a one on one meeting, people interested in selling land, their ports used to have

30 ships per year but now average 300 ships per year. Ms. Rendeiro mentioned that Barranquilla is 'ripe for the picking' in investments.

Ms. DeWitt informed the members that she had traveled to Cartagena during the 4th of July; she stated that the former Mayor was waiting for them at the Airport. Mr. Martínez Martínez, hospitality is exceptional. Ms. Dewitt expressed that during their visit she did state if they had a wish list? They request to have relationship between schools from Cartagena to Coral Gables; the Skype connection with Gulliver schools at City Hall would be a perfect match. Ms. DeWitt informed the board that she also met with the Rotary Club and how they supported local economy.

- AIX-EN-PROVENCE:

Mr. Edelstein reported that Mayor Raul Valdés-Fauli has plans to be in Toulouse on the 15th, 16th and 17th of October; he was somewhat flexible before those dates. Mr. Edelstein mentioned he was not certain what type of delegation it would be or how large, he explained that three years ago statue dedication for centennial of death Paul Cezanne statue 250,000 - 300,000 Euros, donated and matched funds to dedicate the statue. Mr. Edelstein stated that Mayor Raul Valdés-Fauli would try to get together a game-plan in the next few days with a proposed mission to Aix-en-Provence, and if we could get the contact information from everyone present.

Ms. Rendeiro reported that the up coming Beacon Council, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce 2010 mission will be to France, and there will be Aix-en-Provence outreach. Ms. Rendeiro informed the board that the mission is planed for April 17th through April 24th, 2010; she mentioned that Glen Cooper would be involved. Mr. Rosenbaum asked if it would involve a Sister City side. Ms. Rendeiro replied yes, and the Chamber, with each year, will incorporate a Sister City visit with each nation that they visit. There will be a business opportunity as well as cultural and educational. Ms. Wotherspoon informed the members that Muriel is proposing cultural exchange with dining and golf.

- MAYOR JOSE TORRES HURTADO FROM GRANADA, SPAIN:

Ms. Rendeiro updates the members on the letter sent to Granada in April to Celebrate 20 years of Sister Cities, also asked Mayor of Granada to come to Coral Gables and finally dedicate the Pomegranate Statue. Package offered to Mayor, with help from Ms. Rendeiro, to offer flights for two (economy), room and board, and transportation. The statue was installed over the past few years; we are waiting until September 2009 for official correspondence. Ms. Rendeiro reported two free coach tickets were offered, and Mayor Hurtado insisted on Business Class. Ms. DeWitt asked if Mayor Hurtado was not coming. Ms. Rendeiro stated nobody knew, and the outreach was done in good faith, Mayor of Granada insists on Business and nobody can provide.

- FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE SURVEY:

Florida League of Cities, Sister City survey, is trying to get an idea of synergies and other organization in the cities, Seaport, Airport wanted nothing to do with Sister Cities just 3 years ago, this survey has been the most comprehensive. Mayor Slesnick informs members on the Florida League of Cities/Florida League of Mayors need to know just how advance Coral Gables is with their Sister Cities program. Ms. Rendeiro reports available stimulus money if it is cultural and shows that it will improve economic situation. Mayor Slesnick goes on to mention, the biggest delegation to date has been to have been to Washington D.C., to accept the Best Sister Cities Program 2005, 25,000 - 50,000 population category. A brief discussion of the Florida League of

Cities/Florida League of Mayors was held among members. Mayor Slesnick mentions that our Sister City program should be two less if we truly wanted to capture the spirit of Sister Cities.

Discussion occurred regarding support of so many Sister Cities, and Mayor Slesnick addresses Mr. Rosenbaum request of address a letter to the Mayor of Quito. Mayor Slesnick reported with FIU and Miami-Dade County is a Director of a Latin American leader's conference, several hundred mayors showed up, one year Mayor Slesnick was on board with the Mayor of Quito, former General of Army against Peruvian forces. Mayor Slesnick reported the discussion went nowhere; the Mayor did not understand the principle of Sister City protocol. Many contacts have been made over the years.

- ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR:

Ms. Rendeiro informs the members that the Vice Chair must be voted on first. Ms. Lukis nominates Mr. Edelstein, Ms. Rendeiro seconded. Mr. Edelstein accepts. Ms. DeWitt informs members she would like to nominate Art DeNunzio for Chair. Mr. DeNunzio denies. Ms. Rendeiro calls for Vice Chair vote, all voted in favor of Mr. Edelstein's nomination, but Mr. Edelstein abstains. Ms. DeWitt asked what the protocol in this was because we have so many new members. Ms. Wotherspoon asked all board members if they were aware of what they were voting on. All members replied yes. Ms. Rendeiro stated that Mr. Edelstein would be Vice Chair. The second vote today would be for Chair, the nomination came from Mr. Lukis, for Ms. Rendeiro and Mr. Edelstein seconded, all in favor (all except Ms. DeWitt), no opposed, any abstains? (Ms. DeWitt abstained). Ms. Rendeiro thanked everyone for their loyal support; she welcomed Mr. Edelstein as Vice-Chair.

Mr. Lukis inquired about the code of silence restrictions and the Sunshine issues. Discussion occurred among members. Ms. Rendeiro suggested that this concern be addressed next board meeting when staff receives word from City Attorney Elizabeth Hernandez.

Ms. Rendeiro informs the members that for next board meeting they would designate individuals per Sister City.

Discussion occurred regarding upcoming events for designation of the members for Sister Cities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. DeWitt informed the members of a group of six judges coming from Azerbaijan arriving in September and would need housing.

Ms. Rendeiro informed the members for next month, agenda an exchange discussion.

The Board members present unanimously confirmed the next meeting date of Tuesday, September 15th, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council