

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

Minutes of the Meeting of June 19, 2018

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Israel Reyes	E	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	X	P	E	E	Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	E	-	P	P	P	X	P	E	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Claudio Pastor	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	X	E	P	E	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	X	P	P	P	Comm. Michael Mena
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

Country Appointed Liaisons:

Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzán
Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding
Antigua, Guatemala – Mr. Gavarrete

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

UA = Unexcused Absence

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guests:

Dunia Miranda-Mauri, Trade Commissioner, Guatemala Trade and Investment office

Ms. Cuzán called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Kadragic made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on June 19, 2018 and Mr. Anding seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Ms. Kadragic made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC special meeting on June, 1, 2018 and Mr. Anding seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding reported that mail was sent to his counterpart, Mr. Mayence, with the information the Mayor had given him regarding Smart City USA. They are interested in cooperation, and Mr. Anding suggested to Mr. Mayence to forward that information to Mr. Bourgis (who had been a member of the Aix delegation which visited Coral Gables in November 2017). Departments will

provide contacts and data is in the brochure. We will need to ask the Mayor what he recommends to establish contacts. Will it be directly with heads of the digital department or directly with someone he expects to appoint?

Mr. Anding updated the group on the Marché International des Villes Jumelées in Aix-en-Provence in early December.

Copy of brochure was distributed among the members. The Christmas fair is scheduled from November 30 – December 5, 2018.

Mr. Anding informed the group that cities in Germany, Perugia, UK, Japan and others participate during the entire time of the market. Aix will provide, for free, a small stand with a tent, electricity, table, etc. The purpose is to promote the City of Coral Gables and its programs. However if products/services are sold, there will be a participation fee.

To be determined: who will be in charge to work with AIX for coordination; confirm committee recommendation on desire to participate; business development department could provide actionable steps; maybe culture and other departments would like to participate as well; “we” means the city and several departments.

Course of action: decision needs to be made and agreed to participate or not; establish a deadline for agreement; present the costs associated with this endeavor; what will we sell, or not; conversation with Alma Kadragic and others followed.

Mr. Anding suggested to forward information to Leticia Perez in the development department.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrete informed the group that they are waiting for Baptist Hospital action.

Ms. Cuzán informed that she was contacted by Ms. Miranda-Mauri regarding donations to Guatemala after the devastating volcano eruption in early June. KSR assisted with equipment donations which included fire fighter helmets, boots and fire equipment which are going to La Antigua but not directly to La Antigua fire fighters. They have air/freight transportation arranged by the trade commission who delivered items to a warehouse to be shipped to La Antigua. Conversation regarding the volcano damage ensued.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzán reported that there is a new mayor in Cartagena and she will send a letter of introduction regarding the long standing relationship that has been established. The protocol person called regarding the visit of their Fire Chief and Marine Security in July or August. Only 2 to 3 people and the Mayor will visit to activate the relationship. Cartagena is an active Sister City.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Cuzán reported on the visit to the Kellogg School of Management which is located in Coral Gables. The school occupies a very nice space and offered to host the group for conferences and/or other events. Their students are mostly foreign, 80 to 90% come from out of the country. The student representation is mostly Latin American and the school would like to have more visibility in Coral Gables.

Ms. Miranda-Mauri would like to know if their students would be interested in doing internship within the Trade Commission office. Ms. Cuzán explained that these are management executive programs.

Ms. Cuzán reported the approval by the Commission of the Sister City relationship with Santa Tecla, El Salvador. There will be an official visit at the end of July. She also reported receipt of letter from the office of the Mayor of Sevilla, Spain with interest to become a sister city. They are waiting for further communication.

Mr. Monasterio stated that the group discussed other options for future sister cities, i.e. Oporto, Portugal.

SPECIAL GUEST:

Ms. Miranda-Mauri thanked the group for all the help received during the eruption of the volcano in Guatemala. The situation remains intense. Officials have now closed the search for bodies and it has become a zone zero. There are many families still hoping that their loved ones will be rescued in some form and are pressuring for access to retrieve remains of their family members. The fire fighters have been amazing. Code red has been issued by the Guatemalan "FEMA" entity. Voluntary fire fighters are the oldest organization in Guatemala and were assisted by donations sent from the City of Coral Gables. She also informed that Miami Dade County fire fighters contributed equipment. A FedEx flight was arranged by Miami Dade Commissioner Pepe Diaz to make sure the equipment arrived in Guatemala. A short video was shown. Company 8 in Antigua, Guatemala was the fastest to arrive at the scene and start the rescue operation. Ms. Miranda-Mauri will coordinate their visit to our City of Coral Gables to thank everyone involved.

Ms. Miranda-Mauri presented the issue of erecting a sculpture by Fabricio Costanza in Coral Gables to celebrate the relationship between the cities. Discussion followed regarding the permits, working relationship with architects and engineers to make sure everyone is on the same page; location identification; development of a working proposal to be approved by the Cultural Board; fundraising for the project. Very positive comments followed the discussion.

Ms. Miranda-Mauri continued her presentation proposing the visit of iconic archeologist Dr. Richard Hansen who has extensive worldwide recognition. His works have been published in National Geographic magazine and has an extensive documentary on El Mirador which a renowned archeological site in Guatemala.

Discussion took place regarding scheduling the lecture in October. Some details about the visit are: fundraising, explore possibility of working with UM and/or Coral Gables Museum, format for the presentation (videos, slides, lecture, PowerPoint). The presentation will center on El Mirador and everything it represents. Ms. Miranda-Mauri will follow up with Mr. Gavarrete and

discuss other features of the visit and presentation. They are expecting Dr. Hansen to be in our city for one week.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Cuzán informed the group that Evelyn Paz will retire at the end of July. A replacement has been hired and will attend the next IACC meeting.

Ms. Paz thanked the group for their constant support and appreciation of her work during her employment with the City of Coral Gables. She and her husband will retire on the same day after dedicating 30 years of their career to the City Beautiful.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2018.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council