

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 17, 2023

Location: City Hall Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, 2nd Floor, Coral Gables, FL 33134

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
	A	-											Mayor Vince Lago
Volker R. Anding	P	P	P	P									Vice Mayor Michael Mena
Brett Gillis	P	P	P	P									Comm. Rhonda Anderson
Richard Montes de Oca	P	P	P	A									Comm. Fors Jr./Comm. Jim Cason
Sadia M. Raja	P	E	P	P									Comm. Kirk Menendez
Alejandra Collarte	E	P	P	P									Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	E	P	P	P									Council-at-Large Appointment

A = Absent P=Present E= Excused UA= Unexcused Absence X= No Meeting - =Former Member

The International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (April 17, 2023)

A motion to approve the minutes of April 17, 2023, was made by Board member Collarte. Board member Gillis asked staff to include an explanation to the minutes regarding his “no” vote for the donation of gas detectors to Villa Elisa, Paraguay. Board member Gavarrete seconded the motion with Gillis’ comments which passed unanimously.

- Martha Pantin, Communications and Public Affairs Director for the City of Coral Gables made a presentation at the meeting.
Mrs. Pantin provided a brief presentation and description of the proposed Coral Gables Centennial Celebration. She informed the Board members that she is currently meeting with different organizations and the City’s boards & departments discussing ideas for a memorable centennial celebration in April 2025.
Mrs. Pantin discussed the goals for the centennial and the work being done to encourage other organizations to celebrate the City’s past and future. The City’s passport agency is creating a coloring book with a centennial theme, the Economic Development department is planning to create a centennial calendar, and short interviews are being taped featuring one hundred individuals who have impacted Coral Gables’ history, (video with former Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli was shown). All videos will be archived on the City’s website and at the Coral Gables Museum. Mrs. Pantin says the city is planning to kick off the festivities at the holiday tree lighting event in December of 2024. Everyone is welcomed to

provide input and ideas regarding how to give the centennial an international flair, recognizing that Coral Gables is an international city.

Acting Chair Anding suggested to Mrs. Pantin to include the Consular Corps of Miami especially those who live in Coral Gables or have their Consular offices in the city. The board members agreed to brainstorm in the next meeting and come up with ideas to integrate this diplomatic group in the centennial celebration.

- Acting Chair Anding suggested holding a concert at the bottom of Venetian Pool. Mrs. Pantin said the city was planning to hold the celebration in a cost-effective manner. A concert at the bottom of Venetian Pool would require funding but she would be happy to consider it.
- Board member Collarte suggested contacting the school of music at the University of Miami (UM) and instead of using Venetian Pool, they could use one of the auditoriums at UM.
- Board members Gillis mentioned that he had been working on a Venetian Pool concert but funding for the pool renovations had been diverted. The pool was closed last year for renovations, but the work had not been completed. He recommended letting the City Commission know that the Venetian Pool event should take place. He also suggested including all the international villages in the event: the Dutch South African, French, Italian and Chinese, among others.
- Acting Chair Anding recommended each board member inform their counterpart in their respective Sister City of the centennial celebration and invite them to participate with either a delegation, a music group, or anything else considered appropriate.

COUNTRY REPORTS

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

- As per Board member Gavarrete there are no updates to report.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR

- As per Board member Gavarrete there are no updates to report.

SAN ISIDRO, ARGENTINA

- Per Board member Collarte, there are no updates.

STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA

- Board member Gillis says he had a good meeting with Hugh Simon, but he was still waiting to hear back from Stellenbosch. He believes the holdup has to do with the processing of the membership with Sister Cities International.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

- Acting Chair Anding reported that he was able to contact Rudy Fernandez, Executive Vice President for External Affairs and Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff at the University of Miami, who suggested he meet with Jennifer Strawley, Senior Deputy Director of Athletics for the University of Miami. Acting Chair Anding will be meeting with Ms. Strawley on Thursday, April 20. This will be the first formal discussion they will have about a collaboration between the football teams for both cities.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Acting Chair Anding requested to be briefed on the Paraguay smoke detectors and the Cartagena Fire Truck donations. Mrs. Belkys Perez provided the Board a summary of the presentation and delivery of the three smoke detectors to the Consulate of Paraguay. She also informed the Board of that the donation of a fire truck to Cartagena, Colombia was approved by the City Commission. Acting Chair Anding asked Mrs. Perez to explain the proposed criteria for the consideration of a Sister City. He then suggested Board members review the criteria and have some comments ready to be discussed at the next IACC meeting.
- Board member Gillis requested an update on the Fink Studio and Mrs. Belkys Perez informed him that the Fink Studio is still under construction with a contractor in place. The City Manager has been working personally on this project to make sure it gets finalized. Mrs. Perez suggested Board members meet with the project manager should they have more questions.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Leticia Perez
International Business Development Representative
Economic Development Department
City of Coral Gables