

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**  
**International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)**  
**Sister Cities Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting of November 25, 2019**

<b>Members:</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Commissioners</b>
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Claudio Pastor	P	E	E	P	E	P	P	E	E	E	P	-	Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	Comm. Patricia Keon
Gabriel Garay	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	E	P	-	Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	Comm. Michael Mena
Alejandra Collarte	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	E	P	P	P	P	E	-	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	-	Council-at-Large Appointment

**Country Appointed Liaisons:**

Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzán  
Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding  
Antigua, Guatemala – Mr. Gavarrete  
Santa Tecla, El Salvador – Mr. Gavarrete  
Quito, Ecuador – Mr. Garay  
Sevilla, Spain- Ms. Cuzán

**A = Absent**  
**P = Present**  
**E = Excused**  
**UA = Unexcused Absence**

**Staff in Attendance:**

Beba Luzarraga, Assistant to the Mayor & Secretary, IACC  
Jessenia Monge Fletes, Intern, Mayor’s office

**Special Guests:**

Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli; City of Coral Gables  
Beatrice Rangel, Innovation Council Consultant

Chairwoman Lourdes Cuzán called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the October 15, 2019 minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Kadragic. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding informed the committee that after much consideration, the invitation to the Aix-en-Provence Christmas Market 2019 was kindly declined. No further report from Aix-en-Provence.

Mr. Anding inquired if the written report presented from the Coral Gables IT director could be forward to his counterpart. He was informed that once the report is presented to the board it becomes public and therefore, he is able to share the information.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Ms. Cuzan requested that Mr. Gavarrete reach out to the new Consul General of Guatemala in Miami. She stated that the committee should take advantage of the new administration to reconcile the relationship.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan informed the members that elections were recently held in Cartagena and there is a newly appointed Mayor. More information will be provided once the new mayor is sworn in.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

A report of the Trip to Santa Tecla was provided by Mayor Valdes-Fauli. They are included in the Mayor's comments further down on the minutes.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

Mr. Garay informed the board members that Mr. Anding provided him with some contacts which he will reach out to in order to revive the dormant relationship between Coral Gables and Quito.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

Ms. Cuzan reported that the Mayor of Sevilla is unable to commit to a tentative date. However, she explained that their administration is still interested in initiating programs with the City of Coral Gables.

SAN ISIDRO, ARGENTINA

No update on San Isidro, Argentina.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Kadragic had no further update from Turkey and Poland.

Ms. Kadragic made a motion to change the monthly meeting for the third Monday of the month at 3:00 P.M. Ms. Anding seconded the motion. All in favor, it passed unanimously. Ms. Luzarraga informed the group that the new dates for 2020 will be confirmed pending the availability of the room.

Mr. Pastor informed the members of his conversation with the Consul General of Italy in Miami regarding the possibility of a Sister City relationship with the City of Coral Gables. He further explained that they both agreed that there needs to be a mutual component, most importantly, a technology component.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli reported that he received a letter of invitation to partner with Venice, Italy. A letter was sent from the Mayor to the administration of Venice. However, given the current flooding situation in Venice, the administration stated that they are not able to initiate a relationship at the moment.

Mr. Anding informed that he is involved with a group that is bringing the Baroque Orchestra of Venice to Miami Beach. He has offered to develop a contact with the orchestra conductor.

UPDATES:

Ms. Rangel informed the group of her involvement with several Brazilian events which will include a Brazilian film festival as well as an Italian modern furniture display. She was referred to work with the Coral Gables Art Cinema and the Coral Gables Cultural Affairs Committee. Ms. Luzarraga will make introductions with Steve Krams of the Coral Gables Art Cinema and with Catherine Cathers of the Coral Gables Cultural Development board. She also presented an art project with HispaFest and she was advised to work with the Arts Advisory Panel which is staffed by Catherine Cathers and Ms. Luzarraga will make that introduction as well.

The minutes of the last meeting held on October 15 were amended by Ms. Rangel to clarify that the event for the Fundación Internacional para la Libertad (FIL) featuring Mario Varga Llosa was not cancelled and is taking place December 5 to which she is inviting all the members of the committee.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

The Mayor reported on the successful trip to Santa Tecla where the Sister City Agreement was signed to formalized our relationship. The Mayor's delegation included Rafael Gavarrete, Belkys Perez, Michael Rocha, Guillermo Palomo, Lemay Ramos, and Grace Santos. The Mayor hosted a dinner for the Mayor of Santa Tecla, his wife, and the newly appointed Ambassador of the United States to El Salvador.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Beba Luzarraga  
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council  
and  
Jessenia Monge-Fletes  
Intern, Mayor's Office