

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

Minutes of the Meeting of December 18, 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	E	P	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Israel Reyes	E	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	E	Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	E	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	A	Comm. Patricia Keon
Claudio Pastor	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	E	E	P	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Michael Mena
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	-	P	P	P	P	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	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. Monasterio
 Quito, Ecuador – Mr. Reyes

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

Staff in Attendance:

Beba Luzarraga, Secretary, IACC

Guests:

Pamela Fuertes, Director, Coral Gables Economic Development Department
 Leticia Perez, International Business, Coral Gables Economic Development Department
 Steven Edelstein, Edelstein Law Firm; former member of IACC
 Carolina Rendeiro, Sister Cities International

Mr. Anding called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the IACC meeting of November 20, 2018 which included an attachment disseminated to the members regarding the IT department relationship with Aix-En-Provence. Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Mr. Anding opened the meeting by greeting the members of the committee. He informed the group that Ms. Cuzan would join the meeting shortly. Ms. Cuzan joined the meeting at 8:59 A.M.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding presented an update on the relationship he has continued to foster with his counterpart in Aix-en-Provence. He stated that he has not seen any activity from the IT Department. He asked Leticia Perez of our Economic Development department for follow up with Mr. Raimundo not only from the request of the committee but also from the Mayor. Attached to the minutes is correspondence he shared with members of the IACC which contains the specific details. Mr. Anding also mentioned the possibility of contact with the office of Economic Development and International Trade from Miami-Dade County. **NOTE:** Pamela Fuertes, Economic Development Director, reported that she has made contact with Mr. Raimundo in IT and is following this issue.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

No official report on La Antigua, Guatemala. Some remarks were made by Mr. Edelstein regarding their former donations of fire trucks and the complexity of the issue.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan updated the group about Cartagena and their training session with Fire Department for the extrication training and education which will be happening the first week of February. Notice will be sent to members.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

The committee held a lengthy conversation regarding the shipment of the playground to Santa Tecla. Mr. Gavarrete confirmed the shipment and the Foundation's payment for the freight. Committee would like to know if there will be a "special event" in Santa Tecla when the playground arrives. Mr. Edelstein asked Mr. Gavarrete to please get all the information and communicate with Ms. Luzarraga, Secretary, IACC instead of waiting for the next meeting.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

No new report.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

Ms. Cuzan and Dr. Monasterio will attend the "Foro Global de Gobiernos Locales Ciudad Sevilla" on January 24-26, 2019. The city of Sevilla is being considered as a new sister city. The Mayor will be unable to travel at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Edelstein presented information regarding past donations (fire trucks). He explained many aspects of the Federal Government's Denton Program. Discussion ensued regarding future donation/shipment of equipment to other countries. There was suggestion that it would be easier to purchase equipment's in the country we are helping which will alleviate much of the paperwork, customs fees, transportation, etc. Mr. Edelstein has made contact with SOUTHCOM and will be happy to bring representatives to explain the program to committee members.

Mr. Pastor reported he has had communications with representatives of Como, Italy and is pursuing meetings for consideration of adding as a sister city due to their compatibilities with our city. He will pursue meeting with Consul General during his visit. No action at this time.

A reminder was issued regarding the new location for the next meeting on January 15, 2019 at the "Sister Cities" room located in the Coral Gables Museum. A comment was made about parking availability but it was concluded that since the meeting is early in the morning this would not be an obstacle.

Ms. Fuertes and her department are working on four different companies which are currently under the cone of confidentiality which will expire in 12 months.

Ms. Fuertes also informed the group that she is working with the International Foreign Office and the Economic Development Board. The chairperson of the group is Ms. Olga Ramudo, President of Express Travel and we will pursue a joint meeting in the near future. Ms. Cuzan welcomed this new effort which she considers it to be an enhancement to the Sister Cities committee.

Ms. Fuertes further gave an update on new projects that includes corporate recruitment and retention; retail strategy and marketing; new Giralda installation. She will be spending more time meeting with members of the business community for alignment of her team. Ms. Fuertes confirmed that the Cultural Board is not under Economic Development. It reports to Dona Spain, Director, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts.

Mr. Anding thanked Ms. Fuertes and Ms. Perez for the information they prepared for his trip to Taiwan. He has disseminated information with various entities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Carolina Rendeiro made the following announcements: the next major Sister Cities conference will be held in Houston, Texas in July; Ireland and Malta are looking for sister cities in Florida; the Sister Cities Association of Florida's website goes live the first week of January.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in **our new location at the Coral Gables Museum**. The committee would like to explore possibility of meeting at Merrick House in the future.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beba Luzarraga
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council