



International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 20, 2024

Location: Fink Studio
2506 Ponce de León Blvd., Coral Gables, Florida

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Olga Ramudo	P	E	E	E	P								Mayor Vince Lago
Vicky Rua	P	P	A	E	P								Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Sadia M. Raja	P	P	A	P	UA								Comm. Kirk Menendez
Raoul Cantero	P	P	P	E	P								Comm. Ariel Fernandez
Richard Montes de Oca	P	E	P	P	E								Comm. Melissa Castro
Alejandra Collarte	E	P	E	P	P								Amos Rojas, Jr., C.M.
Rafael Gavarrete	E	P	E	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 4:16 p.m. Chair Ramudo welcomed everyone to the committee.

Presentation of Coral Gables Centennial Anniversary by Martha Pantin.

- Mrs. Martha Pantin provided IACC Board members with a brief history and description of the Coral Gables Centennial Anniversary. She announced that the official anniversary is on April 29 of 2025; however, the city will kick it off the centennial celebrations with the Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony taking place this December .

She added that the goals for the centennial are to pay tribute with a series of events encouraging participation of the local community; building a sense of community; and collaborating with partners to celebrate Coral Gables past and future. Mrs. Pantin says she has been meeting with community organizations which are also turning 100 such as , the Coral Gables Garden Club, the Junior League and the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. She is also working with other city departments to incorporate centennial theme projects. There are other organizations that will also incorporate the Centennial theme into their annual events.

She also mentioned that besides the official kickoff event for the centennial, there are many other important activations, which includes an oral history project at the Coral Gables Museum profiling 100 figures who have impacted Coral Gables history. Mrs. Pantin also announced that all these activations and Centennial information would be featured on a future website that her team is working on. As soon as this website is ready it will be shared with everyone.

COUNTRY REPORT

SEVILLA, SPAIN

- Chair Ramudo reported that she met about 3 weeks ago with the Mayor of Sevilla, the Tourism Director and the person in charge of the Sister Cities program for Sevilla. They will work on a plan that shows what they think the Sister Cities relation should look like. Once this plan is ready, they will send it to Chair Ramudo. She will try to follow up with them in one week.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

- Board member Gavarrete told the board that he has not been able to request a congratulations letter from Mayor Lago's office to be sent to the new Mayor of La Antigua. He added that he will be sending the new Mayor's contact information to Ms. Leticia Perez so she can send it to Mayor Lago's office along with the request. He announced also that he is planning to go to La Antigua in 4 days and would like to bring the letter from Mayor Lago to the new mayor.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR

- Board member Gavarrete reported that nothing in Santa Tecla has changed. They do not know whether Santa Tecla will have its own Mayor and what the geography of the region will look like in the future.

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

- Board member Gavarrete reported that San Jose has a new Mayor who took post on May 1st, 2024. He pointed out that he does have his contact information and would like to also request a congratulation letter from Mayor Lago.

SAN ISIDRO, ARGENTINA

- Board member Collarte reported that she met and spoke with Diego at the Consulate of Argentina; he is going to get the contact information of the new Mayor of San Isidro and send it to her. She tried to connect before with the new mayor through LinkedIn, apparently, he accepted her invitation but never answered her message. She was happy to announce that Argentina is currently at 8% inflation, compared to 25%.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

- Board member Rua expressed that she does not know what the city wants her to do with Aix. She says she is waiting for some guidelines. Mrs. Belkys Perez told Board member Rua that it would be good to start with a chef experience at the Biltmore. Although it would be for next year, the Biltmore was willing to collaborate on some project for next year. She also added that the Museum would be another venue with a lot of potential. She said that all we need is to find out if there is any art exhibition from Aix-en-Provence coming to the US. Chair Ramudo also gave Mrs. Rua an idea to

perhaps do a croissant competition like the one the City of Miami Beach does every year.

CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA

- Ms. Leticia Perez reported that she has not received word from the office of the Mayor in Cartagena. She is waiting for confirmation on the number of fire fighters coming and dates. Gil Hernandez from the Coral Gables Fire Department and the person leading this program has put together a whole week of training for this group.

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