

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

Minutes of the Meeting of May 23, 2017

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

Country Appointed Liaisons:

Pending – Ms. Rendeiro
Pending – Mr. Edelstein
Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzan
Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding
Antigua, Guatemala – Ms. Sanabria
Pending – Mr. Monasterio
Granada, Spain – Mr. Reyes

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

No Meeting

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guest: Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli

Rafael Gavarette, Resident

Ms. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Cuzan made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on April 28, 2017 and Mr. Anding seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan reached out to the City Manager. The City Manager directed her to Director Fernandez to delegate and coordinate in the fire department for the visit. Ms. Paula Rodriguez, Director Fernandez's assistant, sent Ms. Cuzan an email informing her of the progress and working on the coordination. He is working with Ms. Cuzan on the extrication program, specifically, how many people they can bring for training, how they would house them. Ms. Cuzan received an email from the office of the mayor in

Cartagena asking about the status of the project. Ms. Cuzan informed her about the elections taking place and how the extrication planning was moving forward.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Mr. Anding said he reached out to his counterpart in Aix. His counterpart said they are still considering the proposal. He explained some of the reasons for the delay. The fire department in Aix belongs to the county not the city. It is managed by an elected manager that is a mayor for another city. The police department is managed by the Aix but following the terrorist attacks, the police department are still in a state of emergency. They are hesitant to make any decisions. Mr. Anding reminded the IACC board of Mayor Valdés-Fauli's ties to France. He originally signed the agreement between the City of Coral Gables and Aix-en-Provence. Mayor Valdés-Fauli reached out to Mr. Anding to gather details for a letter to give to Professor Allan Rosenbaum who will be visiting Aix-en-Provence at the end of May. Professor Rosenbaum would be advocating for the City and helping further the relationship. Ms. Rendeiro said Prof. Rosenbaum used to be engaged with the City. She gave Mr. Anding contact information for a store from Aix located in Brickell City Centre. The owner of the store would like to partner with the City for new initiatives. Mr. Anding said he would reach out to the store owner. As a side note Mr. Anding attended the City of Miami and Nazareth Sister City signing ceremony. He reported it was an emotional event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Rendeiro met with the Mayor. The Mayor is refocused on the cities and to replace Granada. At this point the IACC needs to look at other cities. Potential places include cities in Canada. Ms. Rendeiro will be traveling to Serbia with Sister Cities and could lead to relationships with a city in Serbia. The city of Sisci, Turkey sent another message through Sister Cities International looking to partner with the City. Even though it was already voted on, Ms. Rendeiro is bringing it up again because of the Serbian outreach Sister Cities International is trying to engage. Their mission is not to isolate cities just based on their location and the issues going on. Sisci is willing to pay for a delegation to go over to visit them. The City of Miami is signing an agreement with Antalya, Turkey. Ms. Rendeiro would leave it to a future vote. Mr. Anding said the City of Miami's relationship with Antalya has been a relationship in the works for the past two years. Mr. Anding suggested seeing how the new referendum affects the Turkey.

Ms. Rendeiro also spoke to the Mayor about a visit to Aveiro. The Mayor suggested something towards the fall and was looking forward to the visit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mr. Gavarrete said he spent time in La Antigua and spoke with Mayor Asencio. The Mayor is very grateful for the efforts that have been made and has invited the group to La Antigua for a visit. Through Mr. Gavarrete, the Mayor gave a letter and a gift to Ms. Paz for Mayor Valdés-Fauli.

Ms. Paz reminded the members of the board who have not termed out about reaching out their appointing Commissioner for reappointment.

Ms. Rendeiro asked the board for suggestions on new Sister Cities. Ms. Cuzan suggested another city in Italy and in Spain to fill the vacancies that were left from Granada and Piza. Mr. Monasterio said there is

not much interest in Spain. He has reached out to Granada, Santander and Avila. Ms. Rendeiro suggested a city in Mexico. Mr. Monasterio said he would be happy to speak to the directors of Agave. Ms. Rendeiro said she would also be able to attend with Ms. Paz. Mr. Anding said the new Consul General of Mexico should be taking office in the next few weeks and would be a good contact point for a city in Mexico. Ms. Rendeiro said San Miguel, Mexico is also a good possible partner. They have similar cultural practices and they are very involved in the tech industry. Ms. Rendeiro said Canada has potential cities.

Mayor Valdés-Fauli said the IACC was started by him in the early 90s. He explained the purpose is to foster relationships with cities that share things in common with ours. The Mayor mentioned the cities that have worked and that have not. He mentioned the lack of interest Granada has had over the years and his feelings towards looking for another city. Mr. Reyes shared the efforts that have been made to foster the relationship with Granada but ultimately they have not been interested. The Mayor mentioned his visit to Aix-en-Provence and how they have always been receptive to a relationship with Coral Gables. Aix even has a plaza named after the City of Coral Gables. The Mayor would like to have a relationship with a city in Italy. The Consul General of Italy is very happy to make a connection between the City and a city in Italy to form a relationship. Mr. Monasterio informed the Mayor of his efforts to cultivate a relationship with Santander and Avila. He explained after his meetings with those mayors how they wanted to start a cultural or commercial relationship before becoming formal sister cities. Mayor Valdés-Fauli liked the idea and offered to help form that relationship. Ms. Rendeiro explained the similarities between Aveiro, Portugal and Coral Gables. The Mayor thanked the Board for their service and looks forward to working with them.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2017.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council