

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

Minutes of the Meeting of November 21, 2017

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

Country Appointed Liaisons:

Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzan

Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding

Antigua, Guatemala – Mr. Gavarrete

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

UA = Unexcused Absence

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guests:

Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli

Michael Ascoli, Founder and President of Association Amigos Pro Obras Sociales

Norma Gavarrete, Special Project Coordinator City of Coral Gables Community Recreation

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Monasterio made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on October 17, 2017 and Mr. Pastor seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

The Mayor reported a very successful visit from Aix-en-Provence, during which he held a luncheon with members, the mayor, the regional head, and Aix businessmen. The focus of the luncheon was to reconnect with Aix-en-Provence, develop cultural programs, and add a business component to the Sister City program.

The next step is to reconnect with people who attended the luncheon, and establish a relationship with the business section. The Mayor wanted to discuss online government with the delegation. It was briefly presented to them and they were receptive. The extrication training is geared more towards the Latin American cities rather than the European cities.

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrete joined the meeting, and introduced guest Mr. Michael Ascoli as a Guatemalan philanthropist there to discuss the Guatemala hospital project. Mr. Ascoli said he is from Antigua, and comes from a group of successful Guatemalan businesspeople who aim to give back and dedicate time, effort, and resources for the good of Guatemala. Mr. Ascoli said he dedicates his time to three main projects in the country: Saint Hermano Pedro, a project to save the lake, and private University for mostly tech students.

Mr. Ascoli describes Hermano Pedro as a mixed institution for health founded 35 years ago by Franciscan Fathers. He considers it a miracle because Guatemala has a private health system which is fine and provides insurance with biggest hospitals in the United States, but that only serves a small part of the country, and the national system is terrible because of corruption and unionization of health workers. Hermano Pedro is an institution of four main columns: Franciscan friars, American doctors, businesspeople, and the government.

Mr. Ascoli reported numbers regarding the institution: 455,000 medical services to 355,000 people, 6,000 free surgical procedures, and 452 fixed patients.

Mr. Ascoli wants to invite the International Affairs Coordinating Council members to Antigua to visit the hospital. The hospital's greatest need is new facilities such as three new operating rooms. On the business side, they need equipment and a link to hospitals that have surplus or outdated equipment. The hospital could make use of any resource except expired medicine, and experimental drugs.

They have established a relationship with some Houston hospitals and North Carolina hospitals. However, they are looking to establish a local relationship. Mr. Monasterio said Baptist Hospital has an international program. Mr. Ascoli said with the help of the IACC he would be happy to reach out to them. Mr. Anding said he is on the board for Baptist Research and they have a very active outreach to Central America and the Caribbean; he said they would be very interested in establishing relations which could be of interest to Mr. Ascoli. Mr. Anding suggested Mr. Ascoli to contact Alex Fuentes who is in charge of this program. He told Mr. Ascoli to email him a note with an attachment regarding Hermano Pedro, which he will send to the head of the international program department.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor wants to approve a Sister City relationship with San Isidro. He said he cannot visit in December, but the Mayor of San Isidro, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina is planning to visit in February. The Mayor would like to visit San Isidro at a later date. There was a motion from the Board to proceed with San Isidro relationship and send Sister City documents to the Mayor of San Isidro. The motion was seconded, and then approved unanimously. The Board suggested Isreal Reyes should be in charge of the relations, but that decision would be made another time when Mr. Reyes is present.

There was no news on Italy to report. The Consul General met with the Mayor on August 28, but the hurricane season contributed to the lost month of September, and now October has gone by without follow up news on that meeting. It was agreed that there needs to be a Sister City in Italy.

Mr. Monasterio said that the Portugal agreement has not been signed. Portugal has already approved of the relationship, and the ball is in Miami's court to reach out and create a relationship. They need to establish a day for the visit to Portugal. Mr. Monasterio would reach out to Ms. Rendeiro to help facilitate a date.

Ms. Norma Gavarrete discussed the Coral Gables Farmer's Market, and wants participation from each city that the council members represent. The City Manager wants this board in particular to be more involved in the Farmer's Market. The Board would be in charge of forming the connection with their respective cities and coordinating the presentation.

Last year, La Antigua's participation was a huge success. It included a cooking demonstration with typical food of the region. Mr. Pastor said Italy might be perfect to have a booth at the Farmer's Market. Mr. Anding said he would reach out to his contacts for a French restaurant.

Ms. Gavarrete gave details on the Farmer's Market: it starts January 13 and runs each Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm for 11 weeks, until March 24. It charges vendors \$30 per Saturday or \$250 for the eleven weeks. There is no fee for the board members. Ms. Cuzan asked if a restaurant is asked to participate on behalf of the board would they have to pay the vendor fee. Ms. Gavarrete said there would not be a fee. There is no specific date for an application deadline. Ms. Gavarrete would send the application and informational packet.

Ms. Cuzan said she spoke with a representative from the Mayor of Cartagena's office and they reiterated interest in continuing to work with Coral Gables. She asked for a letter from the Cartagena interim Mayor stating their commitment for a continued relationship. They have also requested for Coral Gables to give Cartagena fire department training. Once Ms. Cuzan receives the letter, she forwards it to Ms. Paz so that she may share it with the Board.

There was no development with Spain, except the Mayor had lunch with Consul General. They spoke about Santander and Avila. Mr. Monasterio said he visited Santander last year and met with "El Ministro de Comercio." He also met with the Mayor of Avila. They both expressed interest but they would like to establish a cultural relationship before moving forward with a Sister City relationship. Santander has more to offer than Avila and there was no difference in the request. However, the political situation is complicated, making it difficult to move forward.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

There is no additional information to report.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2017.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council