

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

Minutes of the Meeting of March 19, 2019

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Israel Reyes	E	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Patricia Keon
Claudio Pastor	P	E	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Michael Mena
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	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
Sevilla, Spain- Ms. Cuzán/ Dr. Monasterio

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

UA = Unexcused Absence

Staff in Attendance:

Beba Luzarraga, Secretary, IACC
Jessenia Monge-Fletes, Intern, Mayor's office

Chairwoman Lourdes Cuzán called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the IACC meeting of February 19, 2019. Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Reyes. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Ms. Cuzán opened the meeting by greeting the members of the committee.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding reported that the IT Director of Coral Gables, Mr. Rodulfo, has not yet received a response from his counterpart in Aix-en-Provence although Mr. Rodulfo had sent him a substantive e-mail already on December 21, 2018. Mr. Anding had asked his counterpart in Aix-en-Provence, M. Mayence, to contact the IT Director of his city in this matter; but he did not respond to M. Mayence. Leticia Perez of our Economic Development Department explained that in our city there are very powerful firewalls that do not allow emails coming from unknown entities to get through and maybe this is what is happening with the correspondence being sent by email. However, Ms. Cuzán has very close contact with Michelle Cormier at Aix-En-Provence and a few weeks ago she communicated with her on behalf of some residents who were moving there, and she received a response two days later. Mr. Anding will send the correspondence to Ms. Cuzán and she will forward to her contact.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

No update on La Antigua, Guatemala.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

No update on Cartagena, Colombia.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

Mr. Gavarrete traveled to Santa Tecla, El Salvador and was able to meet with Mayor Roberto J. D'Aubuisson. He confirmed the arrival of the children's playground.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

No update on Quito, Ecuador

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

Ms. Cuzán informed the board members of the correspondence received from the Mayor of Sevilla Juan Espadas Cejas in which he graciously states appreciation to both Ms. Cuzán and Dr. Monasterio for their visit to Sevilla, Spain. He further expressed support toward the newly established relationship between Coral Gables, Florida and Sevilla, Spain while also indicating his interest in visiting Coral Gables in order to personally meet and greet Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli and members of the committee. Additionally, Ms. Cuzán reported having a follow up conversation with Mayor Espadas Cejas regarding joint programs with the University of Miami (UM) and Florida International University (FIU) as well as tourism programs and Economic Development projects.

ANNOUCEMENTS:

Ms. Cuzán reported a conversation with Olga Ramudo, board member of the Economic Development committee of the City of Coral Gables. Ms. Ramudo recommended that the International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) and her committee work together to support each other and develop joint programs.

Ms. Cuzán informed the group of her meeting with Mayor Valdés-Fauli and representatives of Andorra de Vella, Spain regarding future partnership with Sister Cities. However, it was decided that the city does not have enough common elements to establish a successful relationship. On the other hand, Mr. Anding stated that there is one element in common, particularly of much interest to Mayor Valdés-Fauli, which is the subject of Information Technology. Nonetheless, the City of Coral Gables and Andorra de Vella currently collaborate through business relationships and does have the potential to become a friendship city under the guidelines of Sister Cities International. Ms. Cuzán proposed, forming a friendship with Andorra de Vella allows Coral Gables the ability to assist and support their representatives. Additionally, a discussion ensued by board members regarding the specific requirements necessary to make Andorra de Vella a friendship city. Ms. Cuzán clarified that Sister Cities International usually recommends forming a friendship before committing into a mutual partnership. Mr. Reyes made a motion to approve Andorra de Vella as a friendship city and Mr. Anding seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Cuzán reported Mayor Valdés-Fauli met with Mayor Carlos A. Hinojosa Hidalgo from Alcalá la Real, Spain. Mayor Hinojosa Hidalgo expressed his interest in bringing programs to Coral Gables that will require support from the city. He particularly addressed the program “Masterclass Al-Andalus” by David Russell of the University of Charlotte, a professor at the “College of Arts and Architecture” where he provides classes of violin and music history.

Ms. Cuzán responded to the inquiry regarding delegation trips. She encouraged any member interested in participating in the visits to discuss it at the board meeting where it will be approved. Furthermore, discussion ensued regarding the possibility of scheduling a trip to Cartagena, Colombia possibly in January to participate in the “Hay Festival de Indias” dedicated to local and international promotion and cultural exchanges. Mr. Anding also suggested additional trips to other cities.

Mr. Monasterio proposed the idea of placing permanent flags of Sister Cities in Coral Gables. The project proposition will be added to the April 15, 2019 agenda for further discussion.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

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