

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

Minutes of the Meeting of May 29, 2019

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	P	E	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Claudio Pastor	P	E	E	P	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	P	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Patricia Keon
Gabriel Gray	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Michael Mena
Alejandra Collarte	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	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 – No Current Liaison
Quito, Ecuador – No Current Liaison
Sevilla, Spain- Ms. Cuzán

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 8:34 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the IACC meeting of April 16, 2019. Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Monasterio seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Ms. Cuzán opened the meeting by greeting the members of the committee and reporting that both Ms. Kadragic and Mr. Pastor will not be present.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding reported that Raimundo Rodulfo, the director of Information Technology in Coral Gables, provided an update regarding the April 23rd phone conference he had with his counterpart, Jérôme Richard, I.T. Director of Aix-en-Provence. He reported that this is a huge breakthrough since communicating with Mr. Richard has been difficult. Mr. Anding proceeded to read the correspondence sent from Mr. Rodulfo and suggested including the letter in legistar as reference to the attached minutes. Furthermore, Mr. Anding proposed reaching out to Mr. Rodulfo every three months for a brief report of their ongoing communication and progress. Mr. Anding and Ms. Cuzán discussed having Mr. Rodulfo at the next International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) meeting and based on the presentation more frequent updates can be arranged. Additionally, Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli is very pleased with the ongoing relationship. Mr. Anding will reach out to his counterpart to report the great news.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

No update on La Antigua, Guatemala.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzán informed the group that the City of Cartagena is currently waiting for an elected Mayor. She called the City of Cartagena to find out the exact date of the election, but she has not received a call back. She explained that one of the candidates visited the City of Coral Gables and met with Mayor Valdés-Fauli, which could potentially benefit our relationship if elected.

Ms. Cuzán addressed a request made through the Colombian Consulate regarding a possible exhibition at the Coral Gables Museum. However, John Allen, the Executive Director of the Coral Gables Museum reviewed the schedule and was unable to find availability for the exhibition.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

Mr. Gavarrete, reported that our Sister City Santa Tecla is having difficulty in assembling the playground. He continues to search for an instruction manual.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

A motion to reactivate Quito, Ecuador as a Sister City from emeritus status was made by Dr. Monasterio and seconded by Mr. Anding. All in favor, the motion was approved unanimously.

Due to expired board appointments, the committee does not currently have an active liaison for Quito.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

Ms. Cuzán announced that Mayor Juan Espada Cejas was re-elected and will be visiting the City of Coral Gables in the near future. Furthermore, she stated that an official invitation and

congratulatory letter was sent to him on behalf of the Mayor and the City of Coral Gables. She reported that the University of Miami and the University of Sevilla have made contact and will work on developing a relationship. Additionally, introductions will be made to the Mayor of Sevilla when he meets with various local organizations such as the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce and the Spanish Chamber of Commerce. The Consul General of Spain will be invited to participate in the scheduled events. Mr. Anding suggested including Dr. Joaquin Roy from the University of Miami to the list of invitees.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Cuzán announced that IACC is looking forward to developing relationships and collaborating with other committees in the upcoming months such as: The Economic Development Board, the Cultural Board, and other institutions like the Coral Gables Museum, the University of Miami, and Florida International University. She also would like to include Dr. Susan Angulo from St. Thomas University and her husband Jaime Angulo who share strong connections with the Spanish community, particularly our Sister City Sevilla. She stated that it is essential to involve the Coral Gables community for the future success of the program. Furthermore, she informed the members of her conversation with Olga Ramudo, Chairwoman of the Economic Development Board and their initiative to pursue a joint meeting in order to expand on future possibilities to include the business development component. A joint meeting between IACC and the Economic Development Board was confirmed and will be held in the upcoming months. Additionally, Ms. Cuzán stated she would like to reach out to Rene Negron, Vice Chairman of the Global Business Affairs and asked Beba Luzarraga, secretary to IACC, to include him in the monthly meeting notices.

Ms. Cuzán explained to members how important it is for them to reach out to their country's Consular Offices to remind the Consul General that IACC is here to facilitate visit encounters and possible exhibitions. She expressed to Mr. Anding that she is relying on him to aid with the relationship between IACC and the Consular Corps given that he is a member of both committees.

Mr. Anding reminded the board members of the invitation Alma Kadragic had sent on behalf of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce held May 29th. However, Ms. Cuzán clarified that it was a courtesy invitation given that all members must pay a fee to attend the event.

Ms. Cuzán further gave an update regarding San Isidro, Argentina. She reported that Mayor Valdés-Fauli plans to participate in a delegation visiting Cordoba, Argentina in the month of September. During this visit the Mayor and members of the delegation will travel to San Isidro.

UPDATES

- The certificate for the Sister City relationship with Sevilla was received.
- The Sister Cities room at the Coral Gables Museum is being updated.
- Mr. Gavarrete agreed to identify a photo image for Santa Tecla, El Salvador.
- The November meeting will remain scheduled on Tuesday the 19th.
- A reminder was issued regarding board members Financial Disclosure forms due July 1st.
- Mr. Anding discussed updating members certification card ID and parking permits.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Cuzán briefly spoke about the IACC 2018 annual report, which states the accomplishments and activities of the board. She distributed a bullet point page she created and asked the members to send a paragraph with additional information to Ms. Luzarraga and to also include their (2019) accomplishments.

A discussion ensued regarding the Coral Gables Sister Cities brochure. Ms. Cuzán addressed the possibility of having a brochure for each Sister City as well as updating the webpage. She also explained the importance of updating the community on the IACC ongoing activities through the Coral Gables Sister Cities webpage and newsletter. Additionally, she asked Ms. Luzarraga if each city has a “flag pin” and after checking our inventory we were able to locate pins for France, Colombia, Spain, Guatemala, Italy, and Ecuador; however, are currently missing pins for El Salvador.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

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