

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Sister Cities Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of July 16, 2019

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Claudio Pastor	P	E	E	P	E	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Patricia Keon
Gabriel Garay	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Michael Mena
Alejandra Collarte	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	E	P	-	-	-	-	-	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	-	-	-	-	-	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. Gavarrete
 Quito, Ecuador – Mr. Garay
 Sevilla, Spain- Ms. Cuzán

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused
UA = Unexcused Absence

Staff in Attendance:

Beba Luzarraga, Assistant to the Mayor & Secretary, IACC
 Jessenia Monge Fletes, Intern, Mayor’s office

Special Guest:

Beatrice Rangel, Innovation Consultant

Chairwoman Lourdes Cuzán called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the IACC meeting of June 18, 2019. Ms. Kadragic made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Anding seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Ms. Cuzán opened the meeting and welcomed our new committee member Alejandra Collarte Director of Intl. Relations, Institutional Advancement at University of Miami. Ms. Collarte was appointed by Coral Gables City Manager Peter Iglesias. The members proceeded to introduce themselves and briefly presented updates on their relationship with the countries they represent.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding informed the committee that he is working with a local resident who will move to Aix-en-Provence at the request of Mayor Valdés-Fauli. The Mayor is particularly interested since the resident mentioned that his 10-year-old son will be attending a school there which specializes in Information Technology and Science. Mr. Anding updated the resident of the ongoing collaboration between the Coral Gables IT Department under the leadership of Director, Rodolfo Raimundo and his counterpart in Aix-en-Provence Jérôme Richard. The resident offered to facilitate future communications between the municipalities without interfering with the Sister City relationship. Furthermore, the resident offered to take the Coral Gables Magazine: Innovation Issue to distribute to city administrators in Aix.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

No update on La Antigua, Guatemala.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

No update on Cartagena, Colombia

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

The trip to Santa Tecla, which was to take place the second week of June, was cancelled due to the Mayor's due to unforeseen circumstances. It will be re-scheduled and advertised to committee members for their participation.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

Mr. Garay reported that he will initiate contact with Pamela Jalil Garcia who is the local Consul General of Quito, Ecuador to re-establish the dormant relationship with Coral Gables. Ms. Collarte offered to facilitate the communication through her contacts in Quito. Mr. Garay will develop a list of contacts and share with Ms. Collarte for cross reference purpose.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

Ms. Cuzán updated the committee on her communication with the Mayor's Office in Sevilla, Spain. She reported that Mayor Juan Cejas Espada is currently involved in his re-election and therefore unable to travel to Coral Gables at this time. However, a tentative visit is being planned for September. The Consul General of Spain in Miami is aware of our Sister Cities partnership with Sevilla and will participate in upcoming events.

Prior to the visit from Sevilla, IACC will collaborate with the University of Miami and the International University of Sevilla. Ms. Collarte informed the group that UM has yet to establish a partnership with Sevilla. However, she reported that the Hemispheric and Global Affairs (OHGA) office at UM was created with the purpose of connecting diverse internal and external networks of scholars, researchers, students, and community leaders engaging in international issues and scholarship. She explained that President Julio Frenk main vision is to find universities that excel in different aspects to initiate a channel of connectivity where the institutions can share their most effective programs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Alejandra Collarte, new member of the IACC committee agreed to become the liaison with San Isidro, Argentina when the relationship is officially established.

Mr. Pastor informed the committee of his upcoming meeting with Mayor Valdés-Fauli and the Consul General of Italy in Miami to discuss adding Sardinia, Italy as a Sister City. The committee briefly discussed Sardinia as being a region which could potentially affect the relationship. Mr. Pastor will update the board after his meetings. Ms. Kadragic offered to contact a friend in Sardinia if the committee approves it as a Sister City.

Ms. Cuzán reported on the upcoming visit to Cordoba and San Isidro, Argentina by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Collarte discussed the tentative trip itinerary with board members. The Mayor will participate in the San Isidro, Argentina portion of the trip to establish the Sister City relationship. An official Memorandum of Understanding will be signed during the visit. More information will be sent to committee members as it becomes available.

Additionally, Ms. Collarte suggested the Coral Gables Magazine/Innovation be taken on the trip for distribution. Ms. Kadregic suggested taking materials prepared by the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Cuzán encouraged members to participate on this trip. More information to follow.

Beatrice Rangel, Innovation Consultant updated the group of the upcoming visit by Prince Luiz Philippe de Orléans e Bragança to the City of Coral Gables where he will meet with Mayor Valdés-Fauli regarding the launch of his book *Por Que o Brasil É Um País Atrasado?* Mr. Pastor was informed that it will take place at Books & Books in Coral Gables. Ms. Rangel reported that after contacting the Foreign Minister of Brazil, he agreed to instruct the Consul General of Brazil in Miami to support the event. The committee addressed the possible political controversy that could arise because of the context of the book. However, Ms. Rangel clarified that the book is about the development of Brazil. She added that Brazil is the most advanced country in E-Commerce, therefore, the Innovation Council will also meet with Prince Philippe to initiate a discussion regarding the establishment of a program in Brazil. More updates regarding the involvement of the IACC committee will be provided after his visit.

Ms. Rangel reported that the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE) has designed several programs with the objective of developing scientific and technological exchanges between France and partner countries. She further explained that the project between Coral Gables and Aix-en-Provence could be funded through this International scientific and technological exchange; however, the city must first sign an agreement and then present the completed project, at which time the Foreign Ministry will review the project and decide whether or not it will be funded. Mr. Anding suggested Ms. Rangel to follow up with IT on this project.

Mr. Anding reported on his participation in the Global Business Affairs Division of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce where the topic of the Flags on Ponce was discussed. They would like for the administration of the program to come back to the City of Coral Gables. The members of the Chamber of Commerce suggested that the IACC committee becomes involved in the program. Ms. Rangel offered suggestions to upgrade the display to a more modern display to include projections of lights. A long discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of the request. Ms. Cuzán agreed to address the request with the Mayor and City Manager at which time she will report back to the committee.

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