



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Monday, March 4, 2019

5:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 108 (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza and Jonathan S. Solari

Excused: 4 - Carolyn A. Gantner; Samba Baldeh; Rahel Desalegne and Musa Jallow

Others present: Sara Bembenek-Saborio

Meeting called to order by Charles James, Chair, at 5:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alfonso, seconded by Carranza, to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2018 Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals from the members present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

#1 - The SCCC provided volunteers at Dane Dances last year and James agreed to reach out to the organizers to see if our participation this year was possible.

#2 - Alfano suggested we update the videos used in the display case for our sister cities. He volunteered to determine how to proceed.

#3 - James will look into the possibility of holding the April SCCC meeting at Madison College to give everyone an opportunity to review the location for our Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities event and room arrangements that have been planned.

#4 - The International Fest at the Overture in February was a success and James will follow-up expressing our interest in participating next year.

PRESENTATION

[54872](#)

Sara Bembenek-Saborio - UW Division of International Studies

The Education USA Academy at UW-Madison offers a special program for international students 15-17 years old to learn about higher education in the U.S. This program is also conducted at other colleges and universities. The program at UW-Madison is scheduled for July 1 - 19 and has two learning tracks to accommodate students that are fluent in English and those that are not. The desire is to have 20-25 participants. One scholarship is available this year with plans to increase assistance to more students next year.

Ms. Bembenek wanted to share program information with the SCCC in the hope we can be a resource for participants and UW-Madison. They are committed to a three-year program that would likely become permanent. She provided her contact information and a detailed handout providing program details.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORT

[54499](#)

Sister City Program Reports - January, February & March 2019

Tepatitlan - A delegation of four Madison/Tepatitlan committee members visited Tepatitlan in January 2019. Carranza said the group had a meeting with the new mayor and her cabinet to review the various initiatives that were underway. The Mayor was invited to attend the 2019 Celebrate Madison event and she committed to sending a delegation. The Mayor also approved a new mural project in the main library that Madison artists would paint.

The delegation viewed the mural completed by committee member Sharon Kilfoy on the façade of the Ignacio Altamirano Elementary school last year. During this visit, the committee was surprised with a thank you award in front of the student body. The committee presented the school a donation to support the after school program, part of ongoing support they provide.

A visit was also made to the University of Guadalajara, the CUALTOS campus. During the visit with their Rector, we discussed the possibility of an exchange program involving UW-Madison and Madison College medical, dental and nursing students and their community clinic, which is in the process of being completed. We also made a proposal to replicate Tapa the Earth Partnership initiated last year.

Finally, the delegation visited one of only five centers dedicated to the preservation of genetic material of species endemic to Mexico at the University of Guadalajara in Tepatitlan.

Mantova - A delegation from Mantova will visit in April and attend the 2019 Celebrate event.

Vilnius - Lithuanian Independence Day will be celebrated at the University Club on March 11. Lithuanian food will be served and a presentation by Dr. Nancy Heingartner, MVSC Board Secretary is scheduled. Her presentation "My Grandparents Kansas: Search for the 1920's in 2010" reflects on her grandfather who was a U.S. diplomat to Lithuanian in 1926 stationed in Kansas, the provisional capital. All week, March 11 - 15, the University Club will hold a special "Lithuanian Week" featuring lunchtime Lithuanian dishes.

Obihiro – Oyama-Miller reported that they are continuing their focus on health care exchanges with four professionals visiting in March to further explore senior care facilities in Madison and discuss an exchange program with Madison College. Three mental health professionals from Madison will travel to Japan in September. Oyama-Miller said they are planning for a visit of food safety & science students from Obihiro later this year.

Freiburg - A visit to Freiburg by 13 West/Memorial High School students will occur in June and a delegation of 20 Freiburg high school students will visit Madison in September.

Camaguey - James provided the Camaguey report that featured his visit there in January with a jazz music exchange delegation. He shared an overview of his visit that included two top ten lists - favorite places and favorite people. He expressed his appreciation of the close friendship that Madison has been able to establish with the Cuban people in our sister city of Camaguey.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

[54873](#)

Sister City Display Case

A tentative schedule was discussed covering the period from March 2019 to February 2020. This schedule will need further discussion at the next SCCC meeting to ensure everyone is comfortable with the assignments made.

March - All
April - All
May - Obihiro
June - Arcatao
July - Freiburg
August - Vilnius
September - Tepetitlan
October - Mantova
November - Bahir-Dar
December - All
January - Camaguey
February - Kanifing

[52594](#)

2019 SCCC Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities

Heinrich reviewed the status of preparations including entertainment, speaker, ticket sales through Brown Paper Tickets, and outreach including establishing an event page on Facebook. He reminded everyone that online ticket sales will end a couple weeks before the April 27th event and encouraged SCCC members to do their own outreach within their organizations and to others they feel will have an interest.

Alfano discussed arrangements at Madison College including status of the banquet, refreshments and room arrangements. He recommended that the April SCCC monthly meeting be held at Madison College.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by Carranza, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m..