



# City of Madison

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

## Meeting Minutes - Approved SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?  
Who does not have a voice at the table?  
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

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Monday, April 4, 2022

5:30 PM

Via Virtual Meeting

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 8 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza and Nasra Wehelie

**Excused:** 2 - Rahel Desalegne and Lamin Drammeh

Meeting called to order by Chair, Charles James, at 5:30 PM.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Carranza, seconded by Alfano, to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2022 Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

1. [70299](#) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

No disclosures or recusals.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

### REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [70678](#) Sister City Program Reports - April 2022

Vilnius (Daina Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) - Their group has been very active locally, protesting the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius stated that Lithuania has recently stopped Russian oil and gas imports in response to the invasion.

Obihiro (Josephine H. Oyama-Miller) - One third of the board of their group has retired recently, which was a significant subject of their recent meeting.

Tepatitlan (Salvador A. Carranza) - Tepatitlan's new mayor and some of his cabinet members participated in their group's most recent Zoom call to review and discuss projects previously proposed. Two additional projects were added as a result of this discussion. They also discussed improving the economy of the indigenous people in the surrounding area.

Carranza also mentioned that a virtual meeting between Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Tepatitlan's new mayor was being planned.

Mantova (Frank L. Alfano) - There hasn't been recent contact with Mantova due to their increased Covid infections. Previously a delegation from Mantova was considering visiting Madison for the June Festa Italia, which may now become a virtual visit.

Alfano stated they are also planning a virtual Mayor's meeting. D'Costa stated that she is working with Alfano and Carranza to set dates for their respective mayoral meetings.

Arcatao (Carolyn Gantner) - The group is in the initial stages of planning an event for a University of Montana professor who recently completed a book about the development and importance of U.S. - El Salvador sister city relationships. This will be discussed at the upcoming April meeting of the U.S. - El Salvador Sister Cities organization. The Madison-Arcatao Sister City Project is currently raising funds to support the repair of a child care center in Arcatao.

Freiburg (Charles J. James) - In response to the Russian invasion, the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee has initiated a special fundraising campaign to help the Ukrainian people in Lviv, a sister city of Freiburg. James provided information about contributing to this humanitarian effort. James also stated that they are still planning to send a delegation to the Freiburg sister city fair this June.

### ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

3. [70679](#) Discussion of International Festival

James will contact Karra Beach at the Overture Center identifying the SCCC's concerns about the location assigned for the 2022 International Fest and asking if it would be possible to return to the location the committee has historically occupied for next year's event.

SCCC members unanimously expressed dissatisfaction with the place assigned for the SCCC at the Overture Center this year, with lack of space, darkness, and poor location the significant concerns.

The visual presentation of our sister cities prepared by Oyama-Miller received praise. She said that the initial attempt was to have this presentation on the main floor of the International Fest to entice folks to visit the SCCC's second floor space. Instead, it was set up in the second floor room the committee was assigned. A good presentation nonetheless, and Oyama-Miller will pursue a

main floor location for next year.

4. [70680](#) Discussion of Ways to Help Ukraine

The SCCC agreed that a statement from the committee expressing our concern about the current situation in Ukraine and the suffering of the Ukrainian people would be appropriate. James agreed to draft an SCCC statement. It was noted that the Common Council has not adopted a resolution concerning Ukraine.

Although the focus will be on the conflict in Ukraine, committee members expressed interest in recognizing conflicts elsewhere, e.g. Afghanistan and Ethiopia. After some discussion, the committee concluded not to add such recognition in order to not cloud the focus of the statement. Carranza suggested including a sentence to recognize “all people that are suffering” from similar conflicts.

The group also discussed financial support for Ukraine. James and Zemliauskas-Juozevicius discussed the actions their organizations are taking to provide monetary contributions. Gantner encouraged members to donate to those efforts or to other organizations providing assistance to Ukraine, either as individuals or as sister city organizations.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by Gantner, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM.