



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Monday, October 1, 2018

5:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 10 - Frank L. Alfano; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Samba Baldeh; Jonathan S. Solari; Diane L. Farsetta and Musa Jallow

Absent: 1 - Josephine H. Oyama-Miller

Others Present: Mayor Talib Bensouda (Kanifing), Sulayman Jammeh

Meeting called to order by the chair, Charles James, at 5:31 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Solari suggested a correction of the minutes to better reflect the comments by Farsetta regarding keynote speaker selection for the 2019 celebrate event. Farsetta encouraged consideration of female and “people of color” key note speakers for that event. The correction of minutes was noted and the minutes of September 17, 2018 were approved unanimously on a motion by Alfano, seconded by Carranza.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Mayor of Kanifing addressed the SCCC with opening remarks about his enthusiasm and the importance of the relationship with the City of Madison. He outlined his priorities for his community and highlighted several areas of promising connections that he hopes to develop. Specifically he mentioned his upcoming visit to observe and discuss Madison’s waste management system, particularly the recycling program. Finally, the Mayor said it was important to understand the governing position of the mayors of Kanifing’s seven cities where a centralized government limits progress on local issues.

Carranza, who leads international relationships at UW-Madison, offered to assist the Mayor in making connections with the UW and the many programs offered like study abroad opportunities.

The Kanifing delegation and the SCCC members introduced themselves and there was opportunity after the Mayor’s remarks for a brief interaction.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals from the members present.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ANNOUNCEMENT

James discussed the invitation received by the SCCC from Rachel Weiss, Kennedy Elementary School, to participate in their International Celebration Night on Monday evening November 5th. The event involves 4K-5th grade children and their parents. Since this coincides with our next SCCC meeting, James recommended that we participate in the event as well as conduct a brief meeting there that would only cover important issues. There was consensus that James should pursue the possibility of having the next SCCC meeting at Kennedy Elementary.

2019 SCCC Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities

Attachments: [SCCC_041418.pdf](#)
[8-20-2018 SCCC work group notes.pdf](#)

The Celebrate Work Group met on September 25th and reviewed progress made to date in establishing the April 2019 event. Other topics covered included sponsorship, keynote speaker, and the meeting program with the intention of presenting progress and getting feedback from the SCCC at this meeting.

A related issue discussed was the interest of the SCCC in participating in a photo exhibit in May 2019 at the Pyle Center sponsored by Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA). Gantner has been making preliminary arrangements and was interested in committee reaction particularly on her concern that we might be conducting two events too close to each other. Another decision is whether the SCCC should also participate in Gallery Night with a reception which would occur the first Friday in May. After some discussion, Alfano made a motion, seconded by Solari that the SCCC participate in the photo exhibit. The motion was approved unanimously. Gantner promised to contact MOCA for more details and suggested that we have further discussion at the next meeting and decide whether we should be a participant in Gallery Night.

Alfano outlined the sponsorship documents he prepared, letter and form, with a request for comments by next Monday October 8th. He emphasized the importance of initiating the mailing of sponsorship requests in October.

James summarized the work group discussion on the event with our suggestion for a meeting theme that would support the selection of two of our organizations to highlight next April. Further, the keynote speaker, entertainment and menu could also reflect those being highlighted. Tentatively, James indicated that the work group is considering a theme, diversity of Madison's sister cities, and highlighting Ainara and Arcatao at the event.

James also presented progress on keynote speaker selection with the goal of making a choice in November. He reviewed the recommendations we have to date. Also, recommended for consideration at this SCCC meeting were Representative Chris Taylor and former Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton.

Farsetta expressed concern that since we had politicians as keynote at the last event, Jim and Jessica Doyle, perhaps we should look for a grass roots selection or perhaps a pairing.

Finally, Heinrich presented a recommendation that was included in the critique of this year's event that a SCCC community award be considered that would honor an individual engaged in "people to people" actions.

Sister City Program Reports October 2018

Vilnius - Zemliauskas-Juozevicius was visiting Vilnius a couple of weeks ago. She delivered the "Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities" program to the mayor's office, as well as information from UW's international internship program, led here by Barbara Jedele. This same information was also shared with several local businesses. The goal is to establish an intern exchange program with the UW in Lithuania.

Kanifing - The letter exchange program between students at Cherokee Middle School is a success. Jallow indicated that there have already been six letter exchanges.

Arcatao - Rosa Rivera from Arcatao, a long-time community activist in El Salvador, concluded her visit to Madison with an appearance at Centro-Hispano.

Tepatitlán - Carranza reminded the SCCC about the Latino Art Fair at the Overture Center on October 6th from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Unfortunately no artists from Tepatitlán are able to attend but there will be artwork from an artist from their sister city.

Camagüey - The sister city association will hold their next bimonthly meeting this Wednesday at Centro-Hispano on October 3rd.

Freiburg - James said their last information table of the season at the Farmers Market was set up on September 29th. After 13 years of doing it, this was the first time they had a table in the month of September. Photocopies of the program booklet from the SCCC event last April are made available. People who stopped by our table were surprised that Madison had sister cities at all, let alone nine, soon to be ten. They are planning on being at the Farmers Market next year.

This coming Wednesday, October 3rd, a small delegation from La Crosse's sister city in Germany, Friedberg in Bavaria, will be in Madison. A number of us from Madison-Freiburg will be hosting members of the delegation.

They have been invited to participate in a conference on sustainability ("Urban Transformation to a Circular Economy") from October 22 to 26 in Freiburg. James said he will attend as a representative of the Board of the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee.

They are planning on participating in "International Celebration Night" at Kennedy Elementary School on November 5th.

Finally, James and Eric and Gina Lewandowski attended the second annual

dinner of the Madison-Kanifing sister city group last Saturday, September 29th, at the Comfort Inn on the east side. James said it was excellent!

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Alfano, seconded by Carranza. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.