



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Monday, June 3, 2019

5:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

Jerreh Kujabi was present as a guest.

Present: 8 - Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Rahel Desalegne and Musa Jallow

Excused: 3 - Frank L. Alfano; Samba Baldeh and Jonathan S. Solari

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2019 Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

James recommended that program reports be submitted to him electronically in advance of the meeting to assist note takers in preparing accurate meeting minutes.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[56091](#)

Sister City Program Reports - June 2019

Camagüey - It is expected that on June 5th the category of “people-to-people” travel to Cuba, previously allowed by the U.S. Treasury Department, will end. Madison-Camagüey will evaluate whether travel under another allowed category is feasible with the hope that we will be able to continue visits to Camagüey.

Arcatao - In mid-June the core members of Madison Arcatao Sister City Project will have an initial long-range planning meeting to strategize for the next 12 months. Priorities for collaboration with our partners, Arcatao, MASCP (Madison Arcatao Sister City Project), and USESCC (US El Salvador Sister City Committee) will be discussed. Some of the areas under consideration include: historical memory project, scholarship program, artisan fair trade cooperatives, delegations, mental health project, environmental initiatives and fundraising.

In October 2019 the USESCC National Annual Gathering will be held in Chicago. MASCP will be represented and some of our Salvadoran partners will also attend. Plans are being made for our partners to also visit Madison at that time for public and private events.

Tepatitlán - Mary Beth Collins, UW-Madison, whose department is partnering with the University of Guadalajara (U de G) on the Museum of the Ecology sustainability projects, visited Tepa and had successful meetings with campus and government officials and the person in charge of sister city relationships.

Obihiro - Oyama-Miller announced that Japan has a new emperor, Naruhito, and his reign will be known as Reiwa. The event was celebrated during a 10 day national holiday.

MOSC (Madison-Obihiro Sister Cities) will be hosting a student delegation this fall with the hope that Memorial High School will be the host. The delegation will include 5 students and 1 teacher with a week in Madison and 3 days in Chicago.

A graduate from their student exchange school, Nansho Commercial High School, visited Madison for 3 days over the Memorial Day Holiday and stayed with the Madison student she hosted last summer.

As a result of the many mental health study exchanges MOSC has hosted, a team of mental health consumers, a translator, and Oyama-Miller have been invited to speak at a conference in Sapporo in September. In addition, plans are being made for additional presentations at mental health organizations in Tokyo.

Vilnius - Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported that their season wrapped up with their annual banquet May 4th. Their next event is the annual picnic in September.

Freiburg - Last Saturday, June 1, we set up our information table at the Farmers Market for the first time this summer. In the course of the three hours we were there we got the usual questions about sister cities, namely:

1. What is a sister city?
2. How does a city become a sister city?
3. What do sister cities do?
4. Why is (Freiburg) one of our sister cities?
5. Does Madison have a sister city in (China)?

A number of people stopped by to say that they had been to Freiburg, while others said they were going there themselves soon, including one person who is headed there next week. We also were visited by a young couple actually from Freiburg who, curiously, did not know that we were sister cities; see question #4 above!

We'll be there at the Farmers Market next to Col. Heg next Saturday and - hopefully - every Saturday between now and the end of September. Although we do emphasize Freiburg, we also talk about Madison's other sister cities when asked about them.

In the meantime, I'm planning to go to Freiburg on June 21, where I hope to meet up with the 12 students from West High School and Memorial High School when they arrive for their home stays with families of students at the Theodor-Heuss-Gymnasium. I'll report on my visit at the next SCCC meeting.

Unless another sister city group wants to trade with us, Freiburg will use the display case in the City County Building in July.

Bahir Dar - Desalegne reported that the organization is meeting every 6 weeks. Their meeting discussions have resulted in identifying an initial project which will focus on the environmental degradation of Lake Tana. Bahr Dar is on the shore of Lake Tana which is an extremely important resource for its fishery and for tourism. An invasive plant is currently causing navigation problems and Lake Tana has suffered environmental degradation that needs to be addressed. Their initial goal is to establish a center at Bahr Dar University to focus on Lake Tana with an interest in having a close collaboration with UW-Madison.

They have filed for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

[52594](#)

2019 SCCC Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities

Attachments: [SCCC_041418.pdf](#)
[8-20-2018 SCCC work group notes.pdf](#)
[11-26-2018 SCCC work group notes.pdf](#)
[2-11-2019 SCCC work group notes.pdf](#)
[Post-event reflections - Jo Oyama-Miller.pdf](#)

Jerreh Kujabi, treasurer for the celebrate event, provided a final report. Our current balance in our Kanifing account is \$3,526. A final obligation is providing an honorarium for the Madison Youth Choirs and Ballet Folkloric. Outstanding revenue may still come from AMCOR for event sponsorship and two tickets purchased by Madison College.

There was consensus that planning and initiating preparatory actions like soliciting sponsors and inviting guests should commence sooner for our next event.

[56092](#)

Honorarium for Madison Youth Choirs & Ballet Folklorico de Maria Diaz

Carranza made a motion to provide each group that performed at the 2019 Celebrate event an honorarium of \$200 which was seconded by Oyama-Miller. After further discussion, Jallow offered a friendly amendment to increase the honorarium to \$250 for each group. The motion passed by voice vote including an amendment to provide an honorarium of \$250 for each group.

[56093](#)

Creating a work group to plan Celebrate 2020 event

Celebrate 2020 will feature our European sister cities; Freiburg, Mantova and Vilnius. A work group consisting of these SCCC members, James, Alfano and Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, was thought to be appropriate. A motion was made by Oyama-Miller seconded by Zemliauskas-Juozevicius to form a four person work group including these SCCC representatives and Solari, if he consents. The motion passed by voice vote. James was named chair of the work group and an initial meeting was proposed for June 10.

An important concern from several SCCC members was avoiding having future events in April. Heinrich said he did review 2020 Madison College and City of Madison calendars and determined that May 2 or 9, both Saturdays, should be considered. After further discussion Oyama-Miller made a motion to select May 9 as the date for the 2020 Celebrate event. The motion was seconded by Heinrich and passed by voice vote. Alfano will be requested to contact Madison College and inform them of our interest in this date for 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Gantner, seconded by Oyama-Miller, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.