



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Monday, October 14, 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 5:32 pm.

Present: 7 - Frank L. Alfano; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Jonathan S. Solari and Rahel Desalegne
Excused: 4 - Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Samba Baldeh and Musa Jallow

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alfano, seconded by Solari, to Approve the Minutes.
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

James reminded everyone that the deadline for registration for the 2020 International Fest at the Overture Center scheduled for February 29th, is Tuesday October 15th. James did send an email reminder to the SCCC.

Also, James announced that the Madison Sister Cities have been invited to the Kennedy Elementary School November 18th international event that we participated in last year. James will send an email to the SCCC with details.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[57719](#)

Sister City Program Reports October 2019

Tepatitlán - A delegation just completed a Madison visit comprised of three individuals from the University of Guadalajara - Tepatitlán including the new director and two faculty members, one a UW graduate. A site for the mural project that has been under discussion for some time has been located. In April

of next year, five Madison artists will visit to paint a mural at a local high school. Carranza said they are also continuing their efforts to develop a charitable eyeglass program similar to the Kanifing initiative.

Mantova - Efforts are underway to establish a self-study Italian language course at West High School. This initiative would include community volunteer tutors and a Facebook connection to a high school in Mantova.

Bahir Dar - Desalegne proudly announced that the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali was the recipient of the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to resolve their conflict with neighboring Eritrea. Beyond this he has shown leadership within Ethiopia to institute needed reforms. She read his statement responding to the announcement -- "This victory and recognition is a collective win for Ethiopians, and a call to strengthen our resolve in making Ethiopia, the New Horizon of Hope, a prosperous nation for all."

Vilnius - Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported that planning for Lithuanian Week next March and their annual banquet, to be held at the end of April, is underway.

Camagüey - The Wisconsin Medical Project has a six-member delegation traveling to Camagüey on October 18th. This visit is in part a follow-up to the arrival of a shipping container of medical equipment sent to Camagüey in September. Medical personnel in the delegation will also determine current needs in consultation with their Cuban colleagues. The sister city association is currently finalizing plans for a visit in January - Camagüey Jazz 2020 - featuring a musical exchange between Madison and Camagüey musicians.

Freiburg - From September 21 to October 7, a group of 21 high school students from the Theodor-Heuss-Gymnasium in Freiburg visited Madison. They were hosted by families at Memorial High School (7) and West High School (14). Two of their teachers came with them. They attended classes with their partner siblings, but also went on excursions that included a guided tour of the Capitol and the UW campus (September 24), a trip to Devils Lake (September 26), a guided tour of the Wisconsin Historical Museum on the Square (October 1), and a guided walking tour of downtown Chicago (October 3). On October 5, they visited our information table at the Farmers Market. On October 6, we organized a pizza party at Ian's Pizza near Olbrich Gardens. On October 7, they flew to New York for a three-day visit there. On October 10 they flew home from New York.

Mayor Rhodes-Conway wanted to host the group in the City-County Building, but we weren't able to work out a specific day and time. However, she gave a set of Madison logo pins and city maps for them.

From the feedback we've received so far, the exchange was a success. They/We want to repeat it in 2021.

We're exhausted, but it's good exhaustion!

Arcatao - On October 8, MASCP and the Latin American Iberian Studies Dept at UW-Madison hosted a lively and informative brown bag lunch/discussion featuring representatives from El Salvador. Zulma and Felicia from US EI

Salvador Sister Cities Organization spoke about how the issues of migration and climate change are impacting communities in El Salvador and the work being done by grass roots organizations around these issues. That evening they spoke at another public event on the same issues.

Our colleagues from El Salvador also had media interviews with WORT radio and The Progressive magazine. The dates of the radio interview and Progressive interview will be announced later.

Over the weekend members of MASCP attended an annual national gathering in Chicago for representatives of El Salvador sister cities. Discussions and strategies were shared as to strengthening the bonds with our mutual sister cities, among many other topics. The results of this gathering will be shared at our next SCCC meeting.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

[56425](#)

2020 SCCC Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities

Attachments: [06-10-2019 SCCC work group notes.pdf](#)

James provided an overview of his approach to follow-up with the organizations he was assigned after sponsorship appeals were sent. He is sending letters with a copy of the sponsorship form. A copy of his letter has been shared by email to SCCC members. Alfano recommended a phone contact in addition. He also encouraged prompt action as many organizations are making decisions now about their gifts for next year. We did discuss the importance of better promotion of our organizations and not only related to gaining financial support for the celebrate event. D'Costa suggested additions to the cities web page for our organizations that provides current information about our activities and how we add value to our community.

The celebrate work group will convene soon. It was acknowledged that many issues still need to be addressed including M.C., guest speaker, menu, entertainment and outreach. Neil Heinen was suggested as an appropriate prospect for M.C. He is supportive and it is likely that we will have representatives from our European sister city organizations on his cable TV show just prior to next years event.

A recipe book, like we prepared for Celebrate 2019, was suggested for the 2020 event.

[57507](#)

Future City funding levels of Madison Sister Cities

Funds allocated to Madison sister city organizations for 2020 will stay the same as this year at \$30,000. This year we asked that allocation not happen until after the 2019 Celebrate Event concluded. The SCCC will decide at a future meeting when the allocation for 2020 will occur.

[57720](#)

2020 SCCC Budget & Gift Bags

Alfano displayed a model gift bag design. Discussion ensued about the

possibility of adding the names of all Madison sister cities. After further discussion it was decided to keep the design generic. Alfano made a motion, seconded by Heinrich, to approve the purchase of 150 gift bags at a cost of \$278 with funds taken from the Celebrate account. This motion was amended by Alfano to increase the number to 250 gift bags at a cost of \$430 and approved by voice vote. After further discussion it was felt that ordering a larger number of gift bags was appropriate.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alfano, seconded by Solari, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.