



# 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, June 2, 2025

5:30 PM

Lakeview Library  
2845 N Sherman Ave  
Madison, WI 53704

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 9 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Bill Tishler and Rahel Desalegne

**Excused:** 2 - Sarah J. Warner and Jennifer C. Johnson

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alfano, seconded by Desalegne, to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2025 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

Charles James announced that the meeting would be his last, as he is stepping down from the committee. He introduced Jo Drury, his replacement on the committee from the Madison-Freiburg group, of which he will remain a board member. Chair Carranza, as well as Vice Chair Desalegne and Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, led the committee in thanking James for his long service and leadership on the committee, and in welcoming Drury.

### REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [88452](#) Sister City Program Reports - June 2025  
Camaguey, Cuba (Jon Heinrich) -- Heinrich reported that the

Madison-Camaguey group is still hoping to make a limited trip to Cuba with medical goods at the end of August.

Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (Rahel Desalegne) -- Desalegne reported that the Ethiopian constitution is being rewritten to divide the county along geographic lines instead of along ethnic lines, which the Madison-Bahir Dar group hopes will help bring an end to the conflict there.

Vilnius, Lithuania (Daina Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) -- Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported that the Madison-Vilnius group held their annual banquet in April. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius resigned from the presidency of the group, but will continue as a member. She also reported tensions rising between the Baltic states, including Lithuania, and Russia in the current political climate.

Freiburg, Germany (Charles James) -- James reported that the Madison-Freiburg group will have their info table at the Madison capital square from the next Saturday until October.

Tepatitlan, Mexico (Sal Carranza) -- Carranza reported that the Madison-Tepatitlan group is welcoming a visiting playwright from Tepatitlan on Thursday. They area also starting work on a new brochure to represent the Tepatitlan to people in Madison, as well as setting up a new email address, Venmo account, and new ways of tracking funds.

Mantova, Italy (Frank Alfano) -- Alfano reported that the Madison-Mantova group made a video for an upcoming conference on water improvement. Alfano also reported that the group has put travel plans to Mantova on hold due to the Trump administration declaring Italy a threat.

Arcatao, El Salvador (Carolyn Gantner) -- Gantner invited SCCC members to the Madison-Arcatao group's Delegation Report & Papusa Dinner, to be held Saturday, August 16, from 5 to 7 pm in the community room of Village Co-housing at 1104 Mound St. The event will include a typical Salvadoran dinner, report back from members of the spring delegation, and a silent auction. The group will also have a sale of goods on Mother's Day at Orchard Church. Gantner also reported that the president of El Salvador is imposing a 30% tax on non-profits, and that staff in El Salvador may be investigated; this is very concerning to the group, as is the arrest of recent journalists in the country.

### ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

3. [88453](#) Chair and Vice Chair Succession Planning

Chair Carranza suggested a succession plan for the chair roles to promote clarity and predictability: In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair a role of "2nd Vice Chair" would be established, and the first 2nd Vice Chair elected. Then, at the end of each term (one year), the committee member who was serving as the Chair would step down, the committee member who was serving as the Vice Chair would assume the role of Chair, and the committee member who was serving as the 2nd Vice Chair would assume the role of Vice Chair.

This suggestion was discussed by the committee members, with tentative plan to formally propose and vote on it at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**James made, and Alfano seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.**