



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?*

Monday, March 7, 2022

5:30 PM

Via Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 10 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Nasra Wehelie; Rahel Desalegne and Lamin Drammeh

Meeting called to order by Chair, Charles James, at 5:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Carranza, seconded by Gantner, to approve the minutes from the February 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. [70300](#) Sister City Program Reports - March 2022

Kanifing - Drammeh reported that their organization is hoping to be more active in the near future. Their February monthly meeting was postponed as one of their organization's leaders was dealing with serious, personal matters.

Tepatitlan - Carranza reported that Tepatitlan's new mayor will participate at the group's upcoming monthly Zoom call - a welcome change as the previous mayor did not seem interested or supportive of the sister city relationship. The four topics of interest for the foreseeable future for their sister city organization are health, economic development, education and culture.

Vilnius - Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported that Mayor Rhodes-Conway received a nice response to her recent letter to the Vilnius mayor. It was also reported that the group is providing monetary support to Ukrainian charitable organizations and plan to meet tomorrow to discuss further assistance.

Arcatao - Gantner reported that their monthly virtual conference calls continue. Gantner also sadly reported about the recent death of Sue Lloyd, a close friend and long time contributing member to the Madison Arcatao Sister City Project.

Bahir Dar - Desalegne reported that Bahr Dar is still significantly affected by the current conflict in Ethiopia. Desalegne discussed her visit in June 2021 and meeting with the local mayor. There is openness to working together. A recent two-week fundraiser will provide \$8000 to Bahr Dar.

Obihiro - Oyama-Miller reported that they continue their Zoom contact with Obihiro and are considering in-person local meetings. Oyama-Miller said they are looking forward to participating in the upcoming International Festival at the Overture Center.

Mantova - Alfano reported that the Mantova mayor is considering a Madison visit in 2023. A meet and greet Zoom call between mayors is planned.

Freiburg - James reported that this year's International Festival is scheduled for March 19th at the Overture Center and Madison - Freiburg will participate.

James stated that they had received a permit from the Capitol Police to set up their information table at the Farmers Market this coming summer. The first day is June 4th.

There will be a festival of Freiburg's twelve sister cities in Freiburg on June 24/25.

In 2020, Madison-Freiburg purchased two paintings from ArtWorking in Madison that they sent to Freiburg in 2021 for an exhibition of art works from their sister cities. The exhibition is scheduled from April 11 to May 5 this year, as part of "Art Encounters – An Exhibition of Freiburg's Sister Cities."

A group of high school students from Madison was scheduled to travel to Freiburg this coming June. However, last week the Superintendent of the Madison Metropolitan School District denied the group permission to go to Germany this year because of continued concerns about Covid-19 and security concerns involving Ukraine. They hope to go next summer.

On Thursday, February 24th, James sent the following message to his counterpart in Freiburg, expressing support for Lviv, their sister city in Ukraine:

Dear Toni,

As you can imagine, we here in Madison are following developments in Ukraine with considerable interest and concern. We in the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee note especially the relation you in Freiburg have with Lviv, your sister city in Ukraine. Please extend to your friends there our sincerest wishes that the current crisis might end soon and that their neighbors to the east might cease their military activities immediately.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTIONS

3. [70305](#) Farmer's Market Table Discussion

Gantner said that a sister city table has been secured for 2022. It is Table 13, next to the Freiburg table, a good location. Based on discussions at the previous SCCC meeting, June through September participation is planned on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, similar to Freiburg. This is only an informational table, no commerce. The committee will discuss a participation schedule at a future date.

4. [70306](#) Photographic/Visual Display at Overture During International Festival

Oyama-Miller will help organize a visual display of our sister city organizations for the upcoming International Festival. She requested that short MP4 videos or digital images (5 to 10) be emailed to her as soon as possible.

The possibility of another sister city art presentation at one of the Overture galleries was also discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

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