



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Monday, October 27, 2014

5:30 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-110 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 5:13 PM.

Present: 8 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza and Lauren Cnare

Absent: 1 - Enrique R. Gandara

Others Present: Karen Milstein (Madison-Obihiro Cities, Inc.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Carranza made a motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2014. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

27505

Sister City Programs Reports

Tepatitlan: Carranza reported that they are exploring a project to participate in the Tapa Sister Cities fair that they have every October. They have not participated in two years but plant to next year. The fair requires that each sister city bring something to represent their City. Carranza reported that he met with a member of the WI Craft Beer Association and he agreed to participate so they will have beer and cheese to represent Madison. To reciprocate, Carranza will do a presentation on tequila.

Vilnius: Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported that the first Lithuanian Honorary Consulate in Wisconsin opened on October 13th at the State Capitol. There was also an annual meeting of the honorary consuls from across the state. There were 18 of them and they stayed for 2-3 days. On October 21st a musical group called "LG" came to Madison to play at the Brink Lounge as part of their

US tour.

Camaguey: Heinrich reported that the second trip to Cuba under our license begins October 28th. 18 people will be meeting in Miami and going to Cuba. They are taking on a new sponsorship in Cuba with the Chamber Orchestra. Part of the purpose of the visit is to bring them things and discuss how we can interact to make good connections with the Madison Chamber Orchestra and the Camaguey Chamber Orchestra. They are continuing sponsorships with other partners in Cuba. The Cuban Ambassador will be in Madison the first week of December.

Ainaro: Farsetta reported that they are preparing for the International Fair. She also shared that they had friends who are involved in community development in East Timor in Fair Trade Coffee visit. They are working towards bringing a health care worker here from Ainaro to raise funds to support maternal-child health care. They are collaborating with the UW School of Nursing and plotting this extended visit.

Arcatao: Gantner reported that the scholarship program is underway. A committee in Arcatao is going through applications. Gantner also reported that the Edgewood class on El Salvador is underway. Students can go to El Salvador in January while they are on their semester break. Someone from El Salvador will come here sometime in November and will give a speech to the class. Arcatao will participate in the Fair Trade holiday for the first Saturday of December.

Freiburg: James reported that they are still awaiting information on Freiburg's Sister City Fair for next year. A representative from Freiburg would be attending the Sustainable Energy Fair at the UW on October 29th and a delegation from the Sister City Committee will meet with her. They are still prepping for International Fest.

Mantova: Alfano reported that they are still working on sending a musical group for Mantova Festival. They are also trying to get Italian Club started at West High School. Alfano also met with the Italian Workmen's Club and the Sister Cities group. They will all go together to Milwaukee to meet the Deputy Council General and the new education officer and new economic development officer. The Italian Ambassador to the US will be in Chicago in early December and would like to visit Madison. Alfano also met with Enis about participating in the Sister Cities Fair. Enis said it comes down to the budget but would be a good idea for Madison to look into for next year. Mantova is also looking at participating in a student exchange for next summer, but without accredited Italian taught in the school district, they can't be involved. The Italian Workmen's Club will take it on.

Obihiro: Oyama-Miller reported that a member of the Mental Health Group is looking at vocational training and she is assisting to coordinate with Japan. They worked with a state program to connect doctors and it was useful to see the impact of Madison in Japan. Obihiro has been really heavily involved with mental health and they will host the National Conference for Community Training in Japan. Oyama-Miller is working with them as to who to bring to present. The delegation that was supposed to come in mid-November is coming in January but they are trying to push it back and see if they can come in February with a larger delegation and do something with International Fest.

They are also in the process of finding a graduating student who would be interested in employment with the International Department as the liaison there has reached his maximum time limit. The cultural exchange project working with potato farmers is going really well.

[35580](#) Financial Update

Oyama-Miller reported that the last balance she received was \$6,333.20.

[35575](#) 2015 International Festival

Oyama-Miller reported that Karra Beach sent a copy of the application for International Fest to every Sister City with a mailing address to secure tables for February 21st. She needs an individual application from every city. Oyama-Miller will re-distribute the attachment and RSVP for the group. Oyama-Miller made a motion to authorize spending of funds from this year's budget to next year's international fest in the amount required by the Overture Center not to exceed \$750. Alfano seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

[35874](#) 2014 City Council reception

Oyama-Miller reported that the reception is scheduled for November 18th. Ashleigh will secure spacing with display tables. Oyama-Miller will make remarks to Council on behalf of each city and explain how funds will be used. Oyama-Miller made a motion to approve \$50 to each Sister City to purchase snacks. James seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

[35875](#) Update on City Training

Oyama-Miller reported that ACA Roger Allen wanted to notify all committee members that committee trainings are online.

[35876](#) Discretionary Funds

Oyama-Miller reported that economic interest forms should be filed with Ashleigh each year. Ashleigh also sent everybody a form for discretionary funding. Vilnius did receive their \$500 and Obihiro will be sending their form for approval. Alfano suggested that since two cities already received discretionary funds, the remaining six each get \$400 to use as they see fit. The committee discussed whether or not they should eliminate discretionary funds and give each city base funding of \$1500 rather than \$1000. Members discussed the importance of providing information on how any money given will be spent.

[35877](#)

Sister City Funding in the 2015 Budget

Oyama-Miller said that she would set up an time to meet with Enis Ragland to discuss future funding for the Committee and increased base funding for the current 8 Sister Cities. In addition, Oyama-Miller said that she has received 3 requests for more information regarding Sister Cities relationships and that she has responded to each of them. To date, she has received requests for information from Uganda, Gabon and most recently from Brazil as well from an individual from Poland who didn't leave her name.

Cnare also said that she will be leaving the Council next year and it would be important to find out what alders might be best suited to serve on this Committee and represent us at Council. Jo said that she will add this to the agenda when she meets with Enis (which would be probably after the budget proceedings past)

[35940](#)

Fundraiser Cookbook

Farsetta explained a little more of her vision to assembe a Sister City cookbook. Oyama-Miller asked for other committee members to assist Diana and Sal, Frank agreed to set up a committee to evaluate and present project to the SCCC in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Alfano moved for adjournment and James seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.