



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, July 1, 2024

5:30 PM

2352 S Park St
Room BBH402
Madison, WI 53713

The City of Madison is holding the Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting in-person.

1. **Written Comments:** You can send comments on agenda items to SCCC@cityofmadison.com

2. **Register for Public Comment:**

- Register to speak at the meeting.
- Register to answer questions.
- Register in support or opposition of an agenda item (without speaking).

If you want to speak at this meeting, you must register. You can register at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/MeetingRegistration>, or in person before the meeting. If you register to speak online, you will need to attend the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair, Jon Heinrich, at 5:35 PM

Present: 7 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza and Charles Myadze

Absent: 2 - Rahel Desalegne and Lamin Drammeh

Excused: 2 - Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius and Jennifer C. Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by Myadze, to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2024 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

There were no announcements.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [84170](#) Sister City Program Reports - July 2024

Obihiro, Japan (Josephine Oyama-Miller) – The Madison-Obihiro group is planning a two-week trip to Obihiro and the rest of Japan. They had significant sign-up of people from International Fest. The timing of the trip will potentially depend on factors like cherry blossoms, fall colors, and a late August festival (Obon) coming up.

Mantova, Italy (Frank Alfano) – The Madison-Mantova group is working on putting together a trip to Mantova next year. However, their two previous main contacts are no longer available, as one retired and the other took a new job. Alfano reports that the group needs to figure out how to replace these contacts. They are also planning an exchange of musical groups who will play at festivals.

Freiburg, Germany (Charles James) – James reported that the Madison-Freiburg group recently had a trip to a festival of Freiburg sister cities (12 represented in all), with 4 members of the group attending. They had a very good time, ate lots of good food, met lots of good people. Their next trip is planned to be in 2026. He also handed out gifts to committee members at the meeting, including new versions of the Madison-Freiburg group's history, maps, and coasters. There is also a group coming up from Chicago that will be having a reception at Monona Terrace (which they will pay for). The Madison-Freiburg group will help with local arrangements.

Camaguey, Cuba (Jon Heinrich) – The Madison-Camaguey group is planning a visit to Camaguey in November with a handful of members, and hoping to get bigger trips going next year. Heinrich also reports that the group has been sending medical containers down, but have not been able to visit in about 4 years.

Tepatitlán, Mexico (Salvador Carranza) – The previous Mayor of Tepa (Esquivias) was reelected, so the Madison-Tepatitlán group is able to maintain the connection with him and his administration. Carranza also reported that the group is planning on having a theater troupe from Tepatitlán visit to present a play at Madison College in October. All members of the troupe have managed to get visas so far. The group was finally (after 2 years) able to connect with the artistic wood sculpture program of Harry Whitehorse, and are excited to invite two sculpture artists from Tepatitlán.

Arcatao (Carolyn Gantner) – Gantner reported that the Madison-Arcatao group's delegation trip went really well, including good collaboration with another sister city organization. Next year's trip will be similar. Members of the

group will also be in attendance at the Farmer's Market at Aug 11.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. [82315](#) Photo Exhibit and Reception

Gantner reported that the photo exhibit is up. The reception is on Sun, July 28, 2-4 pm. There will be brief introductions, then Zemliauskas-Juozevicius and Gantner will be the featured speakers. A representative from the Overture Center will also give a welcome. Gantner is looking into the possibility of a proclamation from the Mayor as well. Deputy Mayor Linda Vakunta will likely be in attendance to read it. The reception will be open to public, with committee members encouraged to invite as many as they want, but asked to track numbers and let the Overture Center know if there will be a lot. There will be refreshments provided by the Overture Center, as well as a cash bar. A table with materials and literature is possible. The exhibition will continue until August 11.
4. [84169](#) International Fest

Oyama-Miller will bring the committee's comments to Kara Beach and Kelsey Morrison of International Fest. Discussion of desired changes included: different organizations seated together, correct signage, lower music volume, better location, better attendance, better dates (summer not ideal; next year is tentatively scheduled for March/April). The Fest use to be very proactive at pursuing signups, but this year was not at all, which in addition to technical difficulties, led to many of the organizations not being able to attend. Good TV coverage on Saturday night. Potential solutions discussed included a debriefing meeting or a SCCC member being on the planning committee for the event.
5. [84171](#) Location of August In-Person Meeting

Lakeview Library (at 2845 Sherman Ave) was proposed as the location for the August in-person meeting of the committee. James moved, Oyama-Miller seconded, a motion to approve this plan; the motion passed. The possibility of meeting at Madison College the next month was also discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Alfano made, and Carranza seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.