



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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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, October 3, 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; Salvador A. Carranza; Nasra Wehelie; Rahel Desalegne; Lamin Drammeh and Jennifer C. Johnson
Excused: 1 - Jon F. Heinrich

Meeting called to order by Chair, Charles James, at 5:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by Gantner, to approve the minutes from the July 11, 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

Charles James welcomed Jennifer Johnson to the SCCC as the representative of Cusco, Peru.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [72903](#) Sister City Program Reports - October 2022

Mantova – Alfano reported nothing new.

Kanifing – Drammeh reported that the Madison-Kanifing Sister-City Committee is planning a delegation to Kanifing on November 27. Mayor Rhodes-Conway will be part of the delegation. Anyone interested in participating should

contact Drammeh or Jerreh Kujabi, who can provide more detail. They are also setting up a scholarship program in Kanifing to support needy students.

Bahir-Dar – Desalegne reported that UW-Madison hosted a visiting professor from Bahir-Dar who met with professors and leaders at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, School of Human Ecology, Global Health Institute and UW-Makerspace. Several project ideas have been envisioned including doctoral student advising and mentoring, Bahir-Dar City Sustainable Development Goal/City Planning, and a UW Senior Capstone Project from Bahir-Dar. A LaCrosse, WI, native who resides in Bahir-Dar is interested in being the local liaison for the Sister Cities project.

Arcatao – Gantner reported for Madison-Arcatao Sister City Project (MASCP):

* They will be participating in the annual US El Salvador Sister Cities conference the weekend of Oct 8/9 via Zoom along with members of about 12 other El Salvador sister cities in the US. Friends/colleagues in Arcatao and other communities in El Salvador will be joining in. One of the goals of the conference will address how we can work together to strengthen and maintain these valuable connections. Gantner plans to share more about the conference at the SCCC meeting in November.

* MASCP applied to participate in the Living History Project and are awaiting the results of their application.

* They are looking forward to participating in the annual Fair Trade Holiday Festival at Monona Terrace on December 3rd. They will have arts/crafts from the Women's Embroidery Cooperative in Arcatao and other artisans. The festival is always a terrific opportunity for outreach and visibility to the community.

* MASCP enjoyed being at the SCCC Farmer's Market location on the Square July 16 and Sept 3, and will be back again October 15. They received numerous inquiries about Arcatao and about Madison sister cities in general and are happy to have this opportunity again next year.

* Plans for a possible delegation to Arcatao next year, possibly during Semana Santa (Holy Week), are being looked at and will be shared at a later date.

* Lastly, Gantner enjoyed being at the Tepatitlán Sister City 10 year anniversary celebration last Friday. She extended congratulations to Sal and other Tega folks.

Obihiro – Oyama-Miller reported for Madison-Obihiro Sister Cities Inc. (MOSC):

* The group is still not meeting in-person but are beginning to restart some of their activities. In September, they helped the Madison Japan Association, Beni Taiko Drumming, and Neighbor House with the 2022 Aki Maturi (Fall Festival). It was held on September 18 from 1-4 pm. MOSC was in charge of the children's games.

* MOSC is also assisting a professor and his wife who will be coming to do

some potato research with the University of Wisconsin-CALS program (Agriculture) in Feb. 2023. Oyama-Miller is in discussion with them regarding their housing needs and introduction to the Madison community.

* Oyama-Miller and several other MOSC members attended the first ever-Madison-Japan BioTech Summit held on Monday, September 17 at the Discovery Center. The focus of the event was to bring current businesses who are doing biotech projects in Japan to present, and to demonstrate how projects were developed and how to create collaborations within the community to further development in the biotech industry. Lunch and a panel discussion was held at the Discovery Center. Panelists included Promega Corporation, FujiFilms, Exact Sciences, WARF, and the Japanese Consulate General of Chicago.

Vilnius – Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported that Vilnius will be celebrating its 700th anniversary in 2023. It would be a great time for a delegation from Madison, including the Mayor, to visit, perhaps in the spring. Madison-Vilnius would like to set up a pen-pal relationship between an elementary school in Lithuania and one here in Madison. They are asking for assistance in locating a local school to take part in this project. The Madison-Vilnius group also had its annual picnic in September.

Tepatitlán – Carranza reported for the Madison-Tepatitlán Sister City group:

* They had a very successful 10th anniversary banquet on Friday, September 30 at the Madison College Goodman Campus South. They had many community members and leaders attending. Representatives from three of our Sister Cities organizations attended: Carolyn Gartner representing Arcatao, El Salvador, Jo Oyama Miller representing Obihiro, Japan, and Jerreh Kujabi representing Kanifing, The Gambia. Speakers included Mayor Satya Rhodes Conway, the Mexican Consul in Wisconsin Claudia Franco Hijuelos, and Dr. Jaime Mirles, representing the Sister City of Tepatitlán.

* As part of the event, ten high school students visited from the Preparatoria Regional de Tepatitlan High School that is affiliated with the University of Guadalajara. They visited Madison College and UW-Madison to talk with International Staff about admissions for international students, possible scholarships, and programs of study. They also visited East High School and participated in a prep rally there and toured the City.

* Next year around April, they hope to be able to visit Tepatitlan with a group of students for opportunities for them to study in Tepatitlan and the University of Guadalajara.

* They welcomed the Mayor of Tepatitlan, Miguel Angel Esquivias Esquivias, and a delegation of his Cabinet and representative from the Entrepreneurs Association in Mexico. They met with the Latino Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Rhodes-Conway, and the Mexican Consulate in Milwaukee to discuss joint opportunities for trade and tourism.

* They also had a table on September 10th at the Farmer's Market across from the Freiburg Table.

Cuzco – Johnson introduced herself to the committee, and reported that Madison recently hosted a Pachamanca, a traditional Peruvian harvest festival, in honor of the new sister city relationship formed between Madison and Cuzco. Vic Villacrez and Laila D'Costa attended, among many others. Johnson also reported on an annual trip to Cuzco, taken every June, that is a collaboration between the university of Cuzco and UW-Madison, with a strong focus on the environment.

Freiburg – James reported for the Madison Freiburg Sister City Committee:

* The group's most significant event this year was the visit by Freiburg's Mayor, Martin Horn, to Madison from August 31 to September 3, along with a visit by members of their counterpart organization, the Freiburg-Madison-Gesellschaft. The highlight of the visit was a reception organized by the City of Madison with financial support from the group on Thursday, September 1, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Monona Terrace. The visitors from Freiburg were also guided to various sites around Madison, such as the Fleet Building, Olbrich Gardens, Garver Feed Mill, the Great Dane Restaurant on Doty Street, the Hilltop Restaurant in Cross Plains, and the Vintage Restaurant on East Washington Avenue. James expressed his gratitude to Jo Drury and Sabine Moedersheim for serving as a "Hospitality Committee", and to Laila D'Costa in Mayor Rhodes-Conway's office for organizing the activities for Mayor Horn's delegation.

* Freiburg's information table at the Farmers Market officially ended on September 24. However, the weather on October 1 and 8 was perfect, so they set it up again.

* Sunday, September 25, was the last "Stammtisch" of the year. They are exploring the possibility of hosting a public lecture about the relationship between Madison and Freiburg as soon as possible, perhaps late October or early November.

* Finally, another topic that came up recently is the possibility of organizing a trip to Germany for their members in June 2023, featuring Freiburg, similar to trips that their late president, John Jacoby, organized in 2004 and 2006.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

3. [71201](#) Farmers' Market

The groups have taken turns each Saturday through the summer and fall to this point. Discussion of benefits and ways to improve the experience. Wind, rain, and lack of direct marketing were brought up, as well as much positive engagement. Gantner will apply for the permit for next year.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carranza, seconded by Oyama-Miller, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.