



# 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, December 4, 2023

5:30 PM

Virtual

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Chair, Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, at 5:38 PM.

- 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; Charles Myadze and Richard A. Heinemann
- Excused:** 3 - Rahel Desalegne; Lamin Drammeh and Jennifer C. Johnson

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gantner noted that there needed to be a correction to the minutes from the 11/6/2023 meeting pertaining to her report from the Madison-Arcatao sister city group. Staff-person Faultersack said he would correct the minutes accordingly. Approval of the minutes was postponed.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

1. [70299](#) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reminded the members to fill out Statements of Interest for committees.

### REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [81042](#) Sister City Program Reports - December 2023

Tepatitlán, Mexico (Salvador Carranza) - Carranza reported that Madison students had returned from Tepatitlán and had a great time on their trip, including a visit to the campus there, which many of the students are now

interested in setting up an exchange. The Madison-Tepatitlán group also confirmed that a playwright from Tepatitlán is bringing a play to Mitby Theater at Madison College on 10/24/24. Students from Tepatitlán will also be visiting Madison this year, part of the group's alternating-years visits plan.

Obihiro, Japan (Josephine H. Oyama-Miller) - Oyama-Miller reported that the Obihiro-Madison group had the opportunity to meet with the mayor of Obihiro. Students from Obihiro are coming to Madison in March, and mental health professionals have expressed interest in joining the next trip to Obihiro. The Obihiro-Madison group has also been asked to formalize their policies, due to medical emergencies. She suggested that the other sister city organizations should look into this as well. The group recently met with an agricultural organization. They are also beginning to look at an anniversary celebration. They will likely have a new mayor in Obihiro soon, as the sitting one has been mayor for 15 years now. The question was raised of what the group's succession plan is for their board, and they are also hoping to find younger members. Great Dane Japan, originally scheduled to open on November 14, 2023, was delayed due to issues with paperwork, and will likely open in mid-December.

Freiburg, Germany (Charles J. James) - James reported that the deadline has been extended for applications to the latest planned trip to Freiburg, and the Madison-Freiburg group already has ten people going and more interested. He received good feedback from students who went on the most recent trip and want to go again in 2025. The relationship between the schools in Madison and Freiburg, as well as between the two cities, is good.

Mantova, Italy (Frank L. Alfano) - Alfano reported that the Madison-Mantova group is working on setting up trips between the two cities in both directions next year: Madisonians visiting Mantova and Mantovans visiting Madison. An exchange of musical entertainers is also in the works.

Arcatao, El Salvador (Carolyn Gantner) - Gantner reported that the Madison-Arcatao group had a great experience at Madison's annual Fair Trade Holiday Festival. A lot of people wanted information about Arcatao and sister cities. The group was able to sell over \$2000 worth of items from Arcatao.

Camagüey, Cuba (Jon Heinrich) - Heinrich reported that the Madison-Camagüey group has a limited trip to Camagüey planned for January, just the medical project and members of the group. They will evaluate how they can help more. A larger trip is planned for April, which will be the first open trip in years.

Vilnius, Lithuania (Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) - Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reminded the committee members of the Christmas Eve event being hosted by the Madison-Vilnius group on the upcoming Saturday.

### ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

3. [81043](#) SCCC Public Relations Work Group Report

Charles James reported on suggestions discussed during the recent meeting of the Public Relations work group. These options were further discussed by

committee members. Staff-person D'Costa explained some logistics on certain options. Items discussed included:

- videos for each sister city
- interactive options for kids
- a calendar of events
- publicizing events with the CapTimes
- a brochure of events for international visitors
- publicizing events with the Chamber of Commerce
- a presentation to the Room Tax commission, as they provide the SCCC's funds

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by James, seconded by Alfano, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.