



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, February 3, 2025

5:30 PM

Virtual

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 11 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Nikki Conklin; Rahel Desalegne; Lamin Drammeh and Jennifer C. Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James, seconded by Desalegne, to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2025 Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

[70299](#)

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

No disclosures or recusals.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[86924](#)

Sister City Program Reports - February 2025

Freiburg, Germany (Charles James) – The Madison-Freiburg group is holding their annual meeting on March 1 at Forward Club at Breese Stevens Field. James invited all committee members to attend.

Bahir-Dar, Ethiopia (Rahel Desalegne) – Desalegne relayed that there was no new activity to report from the group. The region around Bahir-Dar is still embroiled in conflict, with rebels present in Bahir-Dar.

Tepatitlán, Mexico (Salvador Carranza) – Carranza related that there was no new activity to report from the group, except that they will have a table at International Festival.

Frank Alfano (Mantova, Italy) – Alfano reported that the Madison-Mantova group has electronic frame pictures they will use for International Festival.

Obihiro, Japan (Jo Oyama-Miller) – Oyama-Miller reported that the final schedule for the visiting student group will be coming in March. A potential delegation from Madison to Obihiro is aiming for a September timeframe. Folks from Obihiro are interested in learning from Madison's bicycle program, especially in regards to promoting public interest and purchasing pathways.

Kanifing, The Gambia (Lamin Drammeh) – Drammeh relayed that the Madison-Kanifing group have nothing new to report, as the group have not been holding meetings.

Arcatao, El Salvador (Carolyn Gantner) – The Madison-Arcatao group has a planned delegation to Arcatao (and another El Salvador sister city) on March 21, consisting of 8 people, including a teacher from West High school who is interested in replicating Freiburg group's high school connections in Arcatao. A clinic in Arcatao has sent the group a request for over-the-counter medications.

Cusco, Peru (Jennifer Johnson) – Johnson reported that the Madison-Cusco group is enthusiastic about an art installation on utility boxes overseen by Karin Wolf. (Staffperson D'Costa will reach out on the status of this.) They also have a planned delegation to Cusco with Engineers Without Borders in May/June, which is to be a science-based trip. Finally, they are excited to attend the upcoming Earth Day even at Aldo Leopold.

Camaguey, Cuba (Jon Heinrich) – The Madison-Camaguey group's delegation to Camaguey (planned to be 5 days in length) is in limbo, as President Trump has closed down US citizen travel to Cuba.

Vilnius, Lithuania (Daina Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) – Zemliauskas-Juozevicius relayed that the Madison-Vilnius group had nothing new to report.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

ADJOURNMENT

Gantner made, and Oyama-Miller seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm.