



# 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, May 1, 2023

5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Zemliauskas-Juozevicius at 5:32 pm.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James, seconded by Gantner, to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2023, 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

There were no disclosures or recusals.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

### REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [77497](#) Sister City Program Reports - May 2023

Tepatitlán, Mexico (Salvador A. Carranza) - Madison high school students will visit Tepatitlán and Guadalajara this fall. Carranza said the tentative dates for the visit are from October 23 to November 6. Funds for student travel will be supported by fundraising events. Students will be housed by a combination of home stay and paid accommodations. Carranza also indicated that a formal agreement between the Wisconsin Latino Chamber of Commerce and

Tepatitlán has been signed.

Obihiro, Japan (Josephine H. Oyama-Miller) - The Obihiro-Madison group are developing a middle school student exchange. Oyama-Miller is hopeful that the Madison contingent will make a visit this coming fall. They are currently developing projects for Madison students participating on the fall trip

Mantova, Italy (Frank L. Alfano) - Alfano said the lake contamination conference in Madison being developed in collaboration with the mayors of Madison and Mantova has been cancelled. There is an interest in having this conference next year. Mantova has a new mayor and there is hope that the student exchange program, eliminated by the previous mayor, can be re-instituted.

Freiburg, Germany (Charles J. James) - James stated that the a student exchange will occur between the Madison and Freiburg this year, with Madison students going to Freiburg in June and Freiburg students coming here in September.

On April 22, Earth Day, James attended a meeting sponsored by Mundo Esperanza at the Aldo Leopold Center on Femrite Road in Monona. The title of the meeting was "Local to Global, What our Community is doing to Heal the Planet." One of their members, Sabine Moedersheim, gave a presentation entitled "Freiburg, the Greenest City in Europe." Because the speaker on the program after her talk couldn't be there, they asked me to talk about Madison's sister cities. James noted that in addition to Freiburg, two other sister cities, Kanifing and Cusco, were also featured prominently in the program. James also mentioned that Madison-Freiburg has a gathering on the last Sunday of every month from 3 to 5 pm. at the Capital Brewery in Middleton for anyone who wants to know more about Freiburg.

Arcatao, El Salvador (Carolyn Gantner) - Gantner said that the dates of the Arcatao-Madison group's upcoming visit to Arcatao have been set. A delegation of 10 individuals will visit Arcatao from June 10 - 17.

The interviews (including supporting material and photos) for the Living History Project are completed and have been sent to the Madison Public Library. Gantner said that the library has not notified them yet that the interviews have been posted, but expects that this will occur soon.

Vilnius, Lithuania (Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) - Zemliauskas-Juozevicius indicated that the Vilnius-Madison group are planning to send a delegation to Vilnius this fall. She will be making a preparatory visit in June. The organization's annual banquet is set for May 5th and will include a silent auction fundraiser.

### ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

3. [77498](#) Meeting Mode: Virtual vs. In-Person

The members had an extensive discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of continuing Zoom calls or returning to in-person monthly meetings. The ease of meeting through Zoom calls was expressed, although there was also interest in returning to in-person meetings or perhaps a hybrid

approach as an alternative. The difficulty of having meetings downtown, particularly finding parking, was expressed.

D'Costa said that it was not necessary to have our monthly meetings downtown and that as long as the venue was open to the public, e.g. public libraries, that would be acceptable. The sense of the group was to continue discussions, but for the present we would continue Zoom call meetings.

A motion was made by Alfano, seconded by Gantner, to continue monthly committee meetings by Zoom call until the end of the year. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

4. [77499](#) Schedule for Farmers' Market

Gantner said that the committee has received a permit for a location at the Saturday Dane County Farmer's Market for 20 dates beginning in June and lasting through October. The site will again be near the Madison-Freiburg location. Gantner will provide a schedule for sign-up.

5. [77500](#) Photo Exhibit

Gantner hopes to hear by our next committee meeting whether the Overture will schedule a sister city photography exhibit this year. A photography exhibit was a part of the committee's decision to replace the Celebrating Madison's Sister City Event, which had been held at MATC Truax until the Covid pandemic. If an exhibit can be scheduled, the committee can then decide on whether a reception and/or dinner, or other activities, would be appropriate additions.

6. [77501](#) International Fest 2024

The International Fest 2024 has been scheduled for the end of June next year, not the first weekend in January as initially reported. It will only be a one day event, not two as was the case for this year's fest.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James, seconded by Oyama-Miller, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM.