



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, March 4, 2024

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; Salvador A. Carranza; Charles Myadze; Richard A. Heinemann; Rahel Desalegne; Lamin Drammeh and Jennifer C. Johnson

Excused: 1 - Jon F. Heinrich

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gantner asked that the minutes be amended so that the amount for the El Salvador trip is corrected to read \$1805 per person instead of \$805 per person. James moved, and Carranza seconded, a motion to approve the the minutes from the February 5, 2024 Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting with the amendment. 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

Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reminded all members to be sure that the 501c.3 status for their organizations are updated for the year. Staff-person D'Costa informed the group that this is not a requirement of yet but may be in the future.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [82313](#) Sister City Program Reports - March 2024

Obihiro, Japan (Josephine H. Oyama-Miller) - Students from that will arrive in Madison for a host family stay from March 23-29 along with their parents. Oyama-Miller and other members of the Madison-Obihiro group visited the Japanese Consulate in Chicago where they attended an event for the birthday of the Emperor on Feb. 23rd. The group plans to have a cultural trip to Obihiro and other cities in Japan in the Spring of 2025. More details to come. Oyama-Miller also reported on the grand opening of the Great Dane Brewery in Akiku (near Sendai), Japan.

Mantova, Italy (Frank L. Alfano) - Alfano reported that a group of entertainers from Montova that were scheduled to come to Madison to participate in the Italia Fest has been cancelled because of passport/visa issues. A proposal to develop entertainment groups has been made to the new Mayor of Montava for future events.

Freiburg, Germany (Charles J. James) - James reported that the annual meeting for Freiburg will be this Sunday, March 10 at the Memorial Union. The Madison-Freiburg group's trip to Freiburg will be June 7-8 to coincide with Freiburg's International Sister Cities Festival. Mayor Rhodes-Conway will attend. The Madison-Freiburg group's permit for the Farmer's Market has been received and the group will again be present at the market every Saturday through the summer, starting on June 1.

Bahir-Dar, Ethiopia (Rahel Desalegne) - Desalegne stated that the conflict in the region around Bahir-Dar has lessened and the government is trying to work out things with hostile factions. Much activity was closed or shut down. The primary university that they work with was closed for 6 months, but things are beginning to re-open and the relationship is beginning to re-engage.

Arcatao, El Salvador (Carolyn Gantner) - The Arcatao-Madison group's trip in June is still open. The unusual thing about this trip is that it is being done in coordination with another sister city program from Philadelphia, so Madison visitors will be able to see and participate in another sister city program and vice versa. A newsletter will be sent out in April. Gantner indicated that if SCCC members are interested in receiving future newsletters, they should let her know.

Tepatitlán, Mexico (Salvador Carranza) - Carranza reported that a theater group is still scheduled to arrive in Madison from Tepatitlán in October, and will perform at Madison College before going to Rockford. The primary focus is to get passports/visas for the group. Since Tega is part of the International Sister Cities program, they are asking the Mexican consulate in Milwaukee to assist them with the required passports/visa applications. Also, the student group who has gone to Tega will help develop a new brochure for the upcoming International Festival in June.

Cusco, Peru (Jennifer Johnson) - Johnson spoke about the upcoming event with the Mayor of Cusco, who is coming to Madison on March 18, 2024. She asked Laila to send out the invitation to all SCCC members and asked that they RSVP as quickly as possible. It will be held at the Ovation Center and Mayor Rhodes-Conway will attend.

Kanifing, The Gambia (Lammin Drammeh) - The Kanifing-Madison group will be holding their 2nd annual meeting on April 22 and Mayor Rhodes-Conway

has accepted an invitation to attend. Drammeh also reported that Kanifing-Madison group members Sambeh and Jerreh have opened a grocery store called Gooh Grocery on Madison's East Side on East Washington Avenue.

Vilnius, Lithuania (Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) - The Madison-Vilnius group's annual banquet will be held on April 20th. More information to follow. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported on the rally that was held on Feb 24th in support of Ukraine. She also reported that the Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs will now visit Madison on March 21st. It will be day-long affair--he will visit the Oshkosh Corporation in the morning, then arrive in Madison in the early afternoon to tentatively meet with Governor Evers, followed by a press conference for Senators, Representatives, and media.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

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

Gantner provided the committee with more information and reminders regarding this photo exhibition. She will send out a document outlining all requirements and deadline dates. All Madison Sister Cities programs indicated that they will participate in this photo exhibition.

Information regarding the Open House reception to be held at the Overture was also provided. Overture will provide refreshments. Gantner will ask SCCC members if they would like a cash bar at the reception after she finds out more information and costs. Overture is providing the brochure and invitation to the Exhibit and Reception.

4. [82314](#) SCCC Public Relations Work Group Meeting Schedule

The previous work group meeting date was cancelled. Staff-person D'Costa will send out new options for the group to meet. Discussion was held as to what times and dates work best for them. The meeting will be scheduled within the next 2 weeks. Several options were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by James, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.