



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Meeting Minutes - Approved SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

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Monday, March 2, 2020

5:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Room 108 (City-County Building)

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- Present:** 9 - Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Samba Baldeh; Jonathan S. Solari and Rahel Desalegne
- Excused:** 2 - Frank L. Alfano and Musa Jallow

Meeting called to order by Chair Charles James at 5:32 PM.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Solari, seconded by Baldeh, to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2019 Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other. Oyama-Miller abstained.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

No disclosures or recusals.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

James inquired about the schedule for the display case and it was apparent that the month of March is available. Oyama-Miller offered to have Obihiro use the case in March. Currently all organizations have items on display and it was agreed to convene after the meeting to clear the case as much as possible.

James also acknowledged the recent Capital Times article featuring an interview with Jonathon Solari concerning his recent appointment as the first CEO of Madison Ballet.

The International Institute of Wisconsin, based in Milwaukee, has made a survey request to each of our organizations to obtain basic information about our groups and their relationships in other countries. After some discussion it was felt that this request was legitimate and it would be appropriate to respond.

## REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[59302](#)

Sister City Program Reports March 2020

**Obihiro – Michimasa Hirata, a survivor of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb, will be visiting the U.S. in mid-April. He will participate in a United Nations formal review on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in New York and will also be in Madison during this visit. Oyama-Miller invited SCCC members to his Madison presentation and asked that we consider doing outreach to our organizations regarding his visit.**

**Oyama-Miller also discussed the Japanese-American organization Tsuru for Solidarity that advocates for humane immigration policies (based on the Japanese-American WWII internment camp experience) and their planned rally in Washington DC in June.**

**Vilnius - A dinner at The University Club on March 11th will be held to celebrate Lithuania's Second Independence Day declared on the same date in 1990. The featured speaker is Daiva Venckus who will talk about her experiences being active in Lithuania's independence movement in the early 1990's.**

**Zemliauskas-Juozevicius invited the SCCC to attend and said she would email everyone an invitation. She also noted that all that week, March 9-13, The University Club will be serving Lithuanian inspired lunches.**

**Arcatao - Gantner said the February 29th International Fest at the Overture Center was well attended providing opportunity for good outreach to the community. She also commented on being approached at the Fest by two women interested in establishing a Madison relationship with a city in Ireland. They did discuss the process.**

**Kanifing - Musa Jallow has just returned from a visit to Kanifing. Baldeh said that Jallow would report on his trip at the next SCCC meeting. Abuja, Capital of Nigeria, may be another potential Madison sister city. Baldeh has had contact with interested individuals. This led to a discussion about the number of relationships that Madison can or should establish. The Madison Common Council has the approval authority. Baldeh said that we should feel free to enter into discussions with those that express interest and assist them knowing that the Common Council has the authority to approve or deny knowing the existing compliment.**

**Tepatitlan - Madison artists have completed the mural at a local high school in Tepatitlan. A student exchange for 2020 is under discussion and there are plans for an educators visit this June. Carranza said he was contacted by Telemundo in Milwaukee with interest on an article about the Madison-Tepatitlan relationship. He also mentioned his recent discussion with Ethiopia's Minister of Higher Education. Also, UW-Madison has recalled students in foreign countries including Italy and South Korea, in response to a federal Level 4 health advisory on Covid-19.**

**Bahir Dar - Their participation at the International Fest was a good experience with many individuals from the local Ethiopia - Madison community participating. Desalegne said that they will not invite government officials from**

Bahir Dar to attend the SCCC 2020 Celebrate event since the city is in the midst of a mayoral election.

Camagüey - Recent federal actions have sharply curtailed travel from the U.S. to Cuba. Commercial airline flights have been eliminated leaving only charter airlines. Only charters to Havana are allowed which will not only result in reduced tourism but provide a significant barrier to Cuban-Americans travel to see and support family members in Cuba. Also, at their December meeting the Madison Common Council adopted a resolution "Calling for the Return to Engagement as Policy". James spoke in support of the resolution at the council meeting.

Heinrich invited James to provide a trip report on his recent visit to Cuba as a member of the Madison-Camagüey delegation that visited Cuba in January.

"From January 5 to January 14, 2020, a delegation from Madison spent an active week in Camagüey. The primary purpose of the trip was to support the music of organizations like the Camagüey Chamber Orchestra, the Camagüey Provincial Band, and other local music groups. Musicians from Madison included Nick Moran, Richard Hildner, Tony Barba, Nat McIntosh, and Yorel Lashley. There were walking tours of Camagüey where local historian, Fernando Crespo, gave us not only information, but also insights into the history and development of the city. We also visited a number of local art galleries, including those of Orestes Larios, Martha Jimenez, and Ileana Sanchez Hing. We were there on the evening of January 7 when the Camagüey Bulls (Los Toros de la Lanura) won the semi-finals of the Cuban Baseball Championship against the Havana Industriales. They went on to lose the championship to Matanzas, but they still remain "our" baseball team in Cuba. On January 14, most of the delegation returned home. Eight of us took an eight-hour taxi van ride to Havana to participate in the annual Jazz Festival."

Freiburg - James reported that on February 18, the Freiburg Annual Dinner and Meeting was held at the University Club where a new board of directors was elected. Sadly, on February 6, Vice-President, Barbara DeMain, passed away unexpectedly and this annual get together was dedicated to her. As part of its 900th anniversary, Freiburg is hosting an art exhibition this summer where artworks from each of their twelve sister cities will be on display. Each city is asked to send two works by two different artists for the exhibition. On January 31, Barbara DeMain and James went to ArtWorking on Stoughton Road, to select the works that will be sent to Freiburg. After her passing, James purchased a painting that she especially liked which will be given to her husband, John, at a memorial service scheduled for mid-May.

#### ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

[59714](#)

International Festival - 2020

General agreement that 2020 was a good, well attended event. Oyama-Miller proposed consideration of storytelling as part of our presence at this event next year.

[56425](#)

2020 SCCC Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities

**Attachments:** [06-10-2019 SCCC work group notes.pdf](#)

James summarized progress to date and important items that need to be addressed for the 2020 event including the guest speaker and emcee (Neil Heinen has declined to emcee) and establishing the program agenda. It was suggested that Nino Amato be approached to see if he may be interested in serving as the emcee. He has had involvement with many of the sister city organizations and was viewed as a good candidate. Guest speaker is still undecided. Oyama-Miller suggested consideration of someone to speak on the cultural aspects of food in Europe. She also agreed to contact Jan Miyazaki, WORT, to help publicize the May 9th event. The organizing group, James, Alfano and Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, is planning to meet soon to continue their work.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by Solari, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.