



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, October 6, 2025

5:30 PM

Virtual

Call to Order/Roll Call

Present: 9 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Jo E. Drury; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Sarah J. Warner and Jennifer C. Johnson

Excused: 2 - Bill Tishler and Rahel Desalegne

Approval of Minutes

Oyama-Miller moved, Alfano seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2025 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

Staffperson Faultersack reminded committee members that there will be no SCCC meeting in November of 2025.

Regular Business Reports

2. [90121](#) Sister City Program Reports - October 2025

Cusco, Peru (Jennifer Johnson) -- Johnson reported that the Madison-Cusco group wants to do more with the sister city program.

Camaguey, Cuba (Jon Heinrich) – Heinrich reported that travel to Cuba is still restricted, meaning that the Madison-Camaguey group is only able to have contact with Cuba via their medical project, which itself is limited to 5-day visits.

Obihiro, Japan (Jo Oyama-Miller) -- Oyama-Miller reported that the Madison-Obihiro group will be holding their 20th Anniversary event at the Edgewater on Sunday, November 20. Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway will be attending, among others. The upcoming trip to Madison is now being shortened because of the election of a new prime minister of Japan. Oyama-Miller is also working on a photo exhibit for next quarter, and still looking for a space to display it. Additionally, she shared that a researcher coming to Madison from Obihiro is looking for a place to stay in the downtown area.

Freiburg, Germany (Jo Drury) -- Drury reported that students visiting from Freiburg met with Mayor Rhodes-Conway and had a very good and productive session.

Vilnius, Lithuania (Daina Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) -- Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported that the Lithuanian consulate in Chicago was sponsoring presentation by a large office furniture company from Lithuania the following night.

Arcatao, El Salvador (Carolyn Gantner) – Gantner reported that the Madison-Arcatao group held their 3rd annual pupusa dinner in August and had a full house, with delicious Salvadoran food prepared locally. She also reported that there have been recent meetings between different organizations for United States-Salvadoran sister cities. The Madison-Arcatao group will attend the Fair Trade Holiday Fair at Monona Terrace on Saturday, December 6 with artisan arts and crafts. They are also celebrating their 40 year anniversary.

Mantova, Italy (Frank Alfano) -- Alfano reported that the Madison-Mantova group is looking to schedule trips in the coming spring and fall (going both directions). However, the approaching term limit of the Mayor of Mantova may complicate these efforts.

Tepatitlán, Mexico (Salvador Carranza) – Carranza reported that the Madison-Tepatitlán group will be meeting with representatives from the Tepatitlán university system and the state assembly on their visit to Tepatitlán. Madison Mayor Rhodes-Conway will be on the trip as well.

Items for Possible Action

3. [90122](#) Vote on New Succession Plan

Carranza reiterated his previously proposed idea for a new succession plan, as follows: In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair a role of "2nd Vice Chair" would be established, and the first 2nd Vice Chair elected. Then, at the end of each term (one year), the committee member who was serving as the Chair would step down, the committee member who was serving as the Vice Chair would assume the role of Chair, and the committee member who was serving as the 2nd Vice Chair would assume the role of Vice Chair.

Alfano made, and Oyama-Miller seconded, a motion to vote on the proposal. The proposal was then unanimously approved by voice vote.

4. [90123](#) Election of 2nd Vice Chair

The first election of a 2nd Vice Chair was postponed, tentatively until the December meeting.

5. [90192](#) Happy Hour/Meetup

Drury broached the idea of an occasional happy hour meetup for members of the committee and of the various sister city groups, perhaps starting next year.

Adjournment

Alfano made, and Gantner seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.