



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, July 11, 2022

5:30 PM

Via Virtual Meeting

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 Nasra Wehelie
- Excused:** 2 - Rahel Desalegne and Lamin Drammeh

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Gantner, seconded by Wehelie, to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2022 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

No disclosures or recusals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [72499](#) Sister City Program Reports - July 2022

Mantova - Alfano reported that a virtual meeting between Mayor Rhodes-Conway and the mayor of Mantova has been set. Mantova's mayor is also planning a visit to the U.S. in November. Alfano stated that the mayor plans to visit New York, and he is hopeful that Madison can be added to the itinerary.

Tepatitlan - Carranza reported that a virtual meeting between Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Tepatitlan's new mayor is set for August 10th. Members from both mayors' offices will participate and Carranza will serve as the interpreter.

Plans have been made to host Tepatitlan students for 2 to 3 weeks this year. Madison students will travel to Tepatitlan next year in the exchange program.

The Madison-Tepatitlan organization will have a celebration on September 30th of the cities' 10-year partnership at the Madison College south location. Carranza reported that Tepatitlan's mayor and other city officials are planning to attend.

Vilnius - Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported that the Madison-Vilnius organization's annual banquet took place in May, and Zemliauskas-Juozevicius visited Lithuania soon afterward. The impression she received from those she visited was that Lithuania isn't safe, and even with NATO membership the country may not be protected from Russian aggression.

Arcatao - Gantner reported that the Madison-Arcatao organization's monthly meetings are now being conducted in person. They are planning to send a delegation to El Salvador next April during Holy Week.

Freiburg - James reported that a group of six members of the Madison-Freiburg organization traveled to Freiburg to join in a celebration of Freiburg's 900th anniversary on June 24th - 25th. Actually, it has been 902 years, as the planned celebration in 2020 had to be postponed because of Covid. James stated that there were representatives present from most of Freiburg's sister city organizations. Three cities did not send representatives, including Lviv, Ukraine. James felt it was a good visit, and group members distributed considerable information on Madison. James also reported that they learned that Freiburg's mayor, Martin Horn, plans to visit Madison for September 1st - 3rd, and will begin working with Madison's Mayor's Office, as well as our partner organization in Freiburg, to work out the details.

Obihiro - Oyama-Miller reported that the Madison-Obihiro organization will seek younger members for their board. One-third of their board members have retired recently, which was a significant subject of their recent meeting. The organization is still having board meetings by Zoom calls.

Oyama-Miller mentioned an upcoming meeting at the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago involving Midwestern states and Japanese business representatives in September. Participants plan to visit Madison as well. The relationship between Madison sister city organizations and the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce was discussed. Wehelie and Oyama-Miller expressed their support for this kind of partnership.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTIONS

3. [71840](#) Farmers' Market

Gantner provided an updated schedule to the SCCC before this meeting.

Gantner said there are still many openings and requested that any of the sister city organizations that have not signed up yet (and are interested) should contact her to sign up. Oyama-Miller will bring a sister cities sign.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by Alfano, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM.