



# 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, February 7, 2022

5:30 PM

Via Virtual Meeting

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 9 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Nasra Wehelie and Lamin Drammeh

**Excused:** 1 - Rahel Desalegne

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by Wehelie, to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2021 Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

1. [66639](#) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

No disclosures or recusals.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

James welcomed new mayoral office clerk Dan Faultersack. He replaces Niamh McPartlin and will be providing support to the SCCC.

Cusco, Peru has become an official Madison sister city. James indicated that they will likely have a designated SCCC member at our March meeting, once the Mayor appoints and Council confirms a Cusco-Madison representative.

### REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [69631](#) Sister City Program Reports - February 2022

Vilnius - Zemliauskas-Juozevicius encouraged attendance at the Rite of Spring performance at the Overture this coming Sunday. This Igor Stravinsky's music is based on Lithuanian and Russian folk music.

The group will celebrate Lithuania's independence day via Zoom on February 16th.

Kanifing - Understandably inactive this past year. Drammeh said they have begun to make plans for more activities this year.

Tepatitlan - Their organization has remained active with monthly Zoom calls, but not much travel is currently planned. Carranza said they are considering a September celebration of the 10th anniversary of their relationship and they hope to begin the Tepatitlan elementary school mural project soon. Carranza also mentioned discussions he had with a Madison East High School instructor considering sessions about Madison's sister cities relationships.

Arcatao - Gantner said she provided a video about the SCCC for the national meeting of U.S. - El Salvador sister cities last December. There are ten U.S. cities that have El Salvador relationships and each organization participated. The U.S. - El Salvador sister cities also collaborated on a letter of solidarity to their communities addressing oppression of citizens by the current government. Their monthly virtual conference calls continue.

Camagüey - The Wisconsin Medical Project is scheduled to send a shipping container of medical equipment and supplies to Cuba this February after several cancellations due to lack of drivers and containers.

Freiburg - James said they are planning an Annual Meeting for Saturday, March 5, 2022, starting at 11:00 a.m. The virtual format and early hour will allow friends in Freiburg to attend and participate. The two main agenda items are elections of board members and ratification of new bylaws.

The Madison Mayor has been invited to the Freiburg festival in June. James hopes a Madison delegation can attend. Also, a group of Madison high school students will be traveling in Germany this summer with plans to spend a few days in Freiburg.

SCCC members hope to participate, in-person, at this year's International Festival on March 19.

### ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

3. [69632](#) Discussion of Sister Cities Table at Dane County Farmers' Market

James said that for a number of years the Madison-Freiburg group has set up a Freiburg information table every Saturday morning from June to September at the Farmers Market. Currently their table is in front of the Colonel Heg statue. They have provided information about all SCCC organizations, but it might make sense for an additional informational table to be established near them that could be used on a rotating basis by other SCCC members.

Suggestions for location, signage, staffing schedules and handout materials

were discussed. Gantner said she will lead the effort to establish this informational table.

A motion was made by Oyama-Miller, seconded by Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, to have Gantner submit an application to the Capitol Police seeking a spot near the Freiburg table on Saturdays for the months of June through September at the Farmer's Market. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

4. [69714](#) Visiting International Students Program Invite

Gantner received an email from Stephanie Milkey, International Student Program, UW-Madison, wondering if the Madison-Arcatao group had interest in having a foreign student participate in their upcoming program in Madison this July. The three-week program includes educating visiting students on issues of environmental policy, sustainability and food security. Tuition is \$4,000, including housing but not travel. Milkey also asked Gantner to share the message with others that may have an interest. D'Costa indicated she would provide the email to all SCCC members. Recognizing that the program is likely cost-prohibitive to our sister city programs, Gantner agreed to find out if program scholarships are available.

Alfano mentioned the email all SCCC members were sent from Jay Mathur, President of Illinois Sister Cities Association, inviting sister city groups to participate in a youth soccer tournament the Association is hosting this June in Rockford. He mentioned a previous visit by a Mantova youth group to a similar event in Chicago that he thought was a good experience. He promised to resend the email to everyone.

5. [66643](#) Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities Events

The tentative date for the event had been set for May 7th. Alfano indicated that their working group has decided to delay the event until this fall. Committee members discussed how this timing may affect other events their organizations have already planned during September and October.

Alfano recommended that the event be delayed until 2023. He indicated that there is no financial commitment at this time to MATC or any other vendor. James said the organizing group can reconvene in the fall to prepare for next year.

Alfano proposed a motion that the SCCC delay the next Celebrate Madison's Sister City Event until May 2023. The motion was seconded by Carranza and passed by voice vote/other.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Gantner, seconded by Oyama-Miller, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.