



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, September 11, 2023

5:30 PM

Virtual

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- Present:** 9 - Frank L. Alfano; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Salvador A. Carranza; Charles Myadze; Rahel Desalegne; Lamin Drammeh and Jennifer C. Johnson
- Excused:** 2 - Josephine H. Oyama-Miller and Jon F. Heinrich

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Carranza, seconded by Desalegne, to approve the minutes from the August 7th, 2023 SCCC 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.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [79387](#) Sister City Program Reports - September 2023

Tepatitlán, Mexico (Salvador Carranza) - Not much changed since August. The Madison/Tepatitlán Sister Cities group hosted a third karaoke to raise funds for the students that are going to visit Tepatitlán next month. Most arrangements, as well as the program for the visit, are ready. Two of the group's board members--one of their teachers and a parent--will chaperone the students on the trip.

Bahir-Dar, Ethiopia (Rahel Desalegne) - Some progress has been made despite the unrest. A bridge was built at the university.

Arcatao, El Salvador (Carolyn Gantner) - Madison Arcatao Sister City Project (MASCP) had a successful morning table at the Farmer's Market on Saturday,

August 19, and enjoyed being right across from Charles at the Freiburg table and appreciated him bringing the SCCC banner. Gantner also expressed the group's thanks to a young MASCP volunteer making animal shaped balloons for children. There were many folks stopping by their table with which to share sister city information and add to their names to the mailing list. MASCP will be back at the market the end of October.

On the weekend of October 7-8, MASCP is looking forward to participating in the annual USESSC (US El Salvador Sister Cities Network) national gathering. It will be held via Zoom and members of the El Salvador sister cities programs across the country will share their activities of the past year, future plans and possible collaborations. Besides the MASCP core group, other supporters and interested folks are invited to attend. Gantner said that an in-person gathering with regional El Salvador sister cities (Chicago and Crystal Lake) is being considered for later this fall.

MASCP will again be participating in the annual Fair Trade Holiday Festival to be held at Monona Terrace December 2. Along with informational displays, they will be selling items from the women's embroidery co-op in Arcatao and crafts from other artisans in the area.

Monthly core group meetings continue to be held along with occasional Zoom meetings with their colleagues, and the Directiva, in Arcatao.

Freiburg, Germany (Charles James) - High school students from Freiburg will arrive in Madison on September 27 and will be staying with host families from West High School for two weeks. The Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee is sponsoring a visit to their three "sister" communities in Germany (city, county, state) in June of 2024.

Kanifing, The Gambia (Lamin Drammeh) - The October delegation from The Gambia was cancelled due to their government's crackdown on international travel for financial reasons. They will try again in April 2024.

Mantova, Italy (Frank Alfano) - Frank reported no news for Mantova this month.

Cusco, Peru (Jennifer Johnson) - A doctor from the University of Cusco will be meeting with the Madison-Cusco group on September 13.

Vilnius, Lithuania (Daina Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) - The Madison-Vilnius Sister City Committee will hold its annual picnic at McGaw Park from 2 to 5 pm on September 16.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION

3. [79386](#) Marketing Subcommittee

The committee discussed ways to raise their profile. Staff person D'Costa pointed out that the committee might want to do a presentation on their activities to the Room Tax Commission, which provides the funds to support sister city stipends. It was noted that Richard Heinemann would be confirmed and able to attend the October meeting. The group is interested in learning about him. The group was originally using the term "marketing" when discussing how to increase awareness of sister cities and James suggested

that the term “marketing” might be misleading; “public relations” might be closer to what the committee wants. The topic will be taken up at the October meeting in a brainstorming session. Alder Myadze suggested that the committee create a calendar of events for sister city organizations.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James, seconded by Gantner, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.