



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, April 3, 2023

5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

Meeting called to order by Chair, Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, at 5:31PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Carranza, seconded by Gantner, to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2023, 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. [77028](#) Sister City Program Report - April 2023

Tepatitlán, Mexico (Salvador A. Carranza) - One of the 2023 projects planned for Tepatitlán has been completed. Artists from Madison have created a mosaic in a Tepatitlán schoolyard. Carranza said that they are looking forward to the planned student exchange later this year.

Freiburg, Germany (Charles J. James) - The Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee held its Annual Meeting at Memorial Union on the UW campus on Sunday, March 19. It started at 11:00 am. so that friends in Freiburg could attend via ZOOM. The keynote address was given by Cora Lee Kluge and Mark Loudon with the title "A History of the Academic Year in Freiburg". Following the talk there was a brief business meeting where Charles James was reelected President and Jonathan Gillette was reelected Vice President. The event adjourned at 1:30 pm. There is a student exchange planned for this year with students from West High School going to Freiburg in June and Freiburg students coming to Madison in September.

Arcatao, El Salvador (Carolyn Gantner) - Madison Arcatao Sister City Project is sending a delegation to Arcatao this June in collaboration with the US El Salvador Sister Cities. Their core group still meets in-person monthly.

Mantova, Italy (Frank L. Alfano) - The planned visit of Mantova city officials to Madison sometime in 2023 is on hold. Alfano said they are waiting the outcome of the Madison mayoral election before reinitiating discussions on the date of a future trip.

Kanifing, The Gambia (Lamin Drammeh) - Drammeh reminded committee members about the annual celebration of the Madison-Kanifing Sister-City Committee at the end of September and encouraged attendance.

Cusco, Peru (Jennifer Johnson) - In June a group of Ho-Chunk elders will be visiting Cusco in continuation of the recognition of the cities' indigenous communities. Johnson also provided information about the Mundo Esperanza Earth Day event on April 22nd at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center and encouraged committee members' participation in this day-long event.

Vilnius, Lithuania (Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) - The Madison-Vilnius Sister Cities banquet will occur on Friday, May 5, 2023. A reminder e-mail will be provided to the SCCC. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius also spoke about Blue Yellow, an organization in Vilnius helping Ukrainian soldiers.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

3. [76455](#) Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities Event

Gantner has sent a proposal to the Overture Center requesting their consent to schedule a Madison sister cities photographic exhibit for one to two months, hopefully around the time of the next International Fest. Her proposal includes three photographs from each organization covering a wall space length of 4 to 5 feet. She believes we will hear by June whether her proposal will be accepted and if accepted, the dates the Overture will designate.

If a photographic exhibition date is established, there is also interest in having a reception in conjunction with the exhibit at the Overture. The group had discussions about the nature and timing of a reception with the understanding that more details could be determined if a positive response is received from the Overture.

4. [77029](#) International Fest Report

There was general agreement that the Fest was a good event this year and all sister city participants were pleased that we were returned to our previous location in the Overture. James thought that the second day of the event also went well, although only a couple of our organizations participated. He encouraged all organizations to consider participating in both days next year.

James also volunteered to contact Allison Ward, Overture Community Engagement Coordinator, to provide our positive impressions of this year's Fest and express appreciation for returning Madison's sister cities to our previous location. He will also communicate the committee's concerns about the scheduled date of next year's event, January 6, 2024, and ask if there is any flexibility in setting a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James, seconded by Alfano, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.