



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Monday, April 27, 2015

5:30 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-120 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by chair Oyama-Miller at 5:32 pm.

Present: 8 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Samba Baldeh and Enrique R. Gandara

Absent: 2 - Salvador A. Carranza and Diane L. Farsetta

Others Present: UW Masters Student in International Relations, Karen Milstein

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gandara made a motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2015 with corrections. James seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Masters student from the UW shared that she had never sat in on a meeting with any of the actual things that go on with the City related to sister cities. She is directed by school to keep an eye on public agendas and see which ones they are interested in attending.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[38112](#)

Sister City Program Reports April 2015

Baldeh introduced himself to the committee. Oyama-Miller gave him a brief description of what the committee does. All members introduced themselves and provided background information on the establishment of their sister city.

Freiburg: James reported that they are shipping lots of materials over to Freiburg including brochures and other things from Madison to be available at the fair and replenish their supply of gifts from us.

Camaguey: Heinrich reported that he is working with two University students trying to do visits to Cuba. One is a journalist who did the report in the Badger

Herald and the other is in the Institute for Environmental Studies. Her Masters project is centered on doing a road map of how Cuba addresses environmental issues. She will likely not get approval to visit and what we may end up doing is taking her on a trip with a tourist visa. She won't be able to do everything she wants to do but she will be able to encounter some individuals and maybe meet with some government officials. Cuba is opening up but it's going to be a long process.

Obihiro: Oyama-Miller reported that the retired Occupational Therapist and Social Worker has been here and has been working with many agencies. He will be here for two and half months. Oyama-Miller also has a student coming here for 6 months. They hope to be able to have longer exchange programs like these.

[38113](#)

Financial Update April 2015

Oyama-Miller stated that Monica in the Mayor's Office is working on the checks and hopes that they will be released on Friday of the next week. If for some reason it is not received in 7-10 days let Oyama-Miller know and she will follow up on it.

Oyama-Miller reminded those who have not yet turned in an annual report to please do so.

Oyama-Miller will ask Ashleigh to send out an email to all Council members with a link to the website since there are a number of new Council members to ensure that they are all aware of each Sister City.

Oyama-Miller explained the process for acquiring new sister cities and discussed new sister city requests. Discussion ensued.

[38114](#)

Fundraiser Cookbook Update April 2015

Oyama-Miller shared Farsetta's email and reminded members that the deadline is May 31st. Members should keep their description of their sister city under 300 words and send photos of the best quality and a variety of images. Again, remember that it's 8-10 recipes from the sister city that can be easily made here. Oyama-Miller will clarify this with Farsetta. The other question is the cost of printing the book. Carranza got some quotes from various places and we need the information before we go forward. The Cookbook Workgroup will be meeting before the next meeting of this group to get the cost worked out. Oyama-Miller posed the question of whether the group should try to get sponsors to cover printing cost (Chamber of Commerce, GMCVB) before paying for printing out of sister city funds.

[38115](#)

Inventory of Marketing Items April 2015

Oyama-Miller reported that she and Alfano had gone to the City to inventory Sister City gifts for visitors. Alfano went through each of the marketing items available including hats, flashlights, pencils, pens, mugs, books, plates, bags, canvas prints, and keys. Alfano stated that if you want any of these items, work through Ashleigh or Enis and these are all available to us.

Committee discussed use of gifts for sister city visitors and other guests.

NEW BUSINESS

[38116](#)

American Competitiveness Exchange Reception April 2015

Oyama-Miller reported on the reception regarding the American Competitiveness Exchange Reception that will be hosted by MadRep at the Edgewater. She said that each sister city should have received an email from Ashleigh and please let Ashleigh know if you can attend. Gandara spoke a bit more about the purposes and what types of delegations will be represented at this event.

ADJOURNMENT

James made a motion to adjourn. Heinrich seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.