



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, October 7, 2024

5:30 PM

Virtual

The City of Madison is holding the Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting virtually to help protect our community from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

1. **Written Comments:** You can send comments on agenda items to SCCC@cityofmadison.com

2. **Register for Public Comment:**

- Register to speak at the meeting.
- Register to answer questions.
- Register in support or opposition of an agenda item (without speaking).

If you want to speak at this meeting you must register. You can register at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/MeetingRegistration>. When you register to speak, you will be sent an email with the information you will need to join the virtual meeting.

3. **Watch the Meeting:** If you would like to join the meeting as an observer, please visit <https://www.cityofmadison.com/watchmeetings>.

4. **Listen by Phone:**

(877) 853-5257 (Toll Free)
Webinar ID: 856 5728 0572

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Chair, Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, at 5:32 PM.

Present: 7 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Salvador A. Carranza and Charles Myadze

Absent: 1 - Lamin Drammeh

Excused: 3 - Jon F. Heinrich; Rahel Desalegne and Jennifer C. Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James, seconded by Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2024 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. [85543](#) Sister City Program Reports - October 2024

Tepatitlán, Mexico (Salvador Carranza) - The Theater Group from Tepatitlán that was going to come to perform at Madison College and Rockford College this month postponed their visit until 2025.

The organizers of the Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival in Monona have been in contact with a Wood Sculpture Artist from Tepatitlán to apply to participate in the 2025 event. The Madison-Tepatitlán group hopes they can complete the application and participate next year.

Vilnius, Lithuania (Daina Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) – The Madison-Vinius group held their picnic last month in Marshall Park, a gorgeous setting.

Mantova, Italy (Frank Alfano) – No report from Mantova.

Freiberg, Germany (Charles James) – A delegation of bankers from Freiburg visited Madison for a day trip, during which they toured Epic and Monona Terrace, attended a reception with the Mayor, walked through the Capitol and down State St. Previous mayor of Freiburg was with them as well.

Arcatao (Carolyn Gantner) – Excited about visitors from El Salvador that will be here next week. Touring sister cities in the US. Three visitors from El Salvador. Event on Tues, Oct 15, invites forthcoming, traditional dinner from El Salvador. Asking for donations. Presentation on June visit. Interview in Spanish on WORT FM on Oct 16. Visit with the Mayor on the 16th as well. Presentation at East High as well.

Obihiro, Japan (Jo Oyama-Miller) – The Madison-Obihiro group participated in the Fall Festival which was held on September 28 at the Neighborhood House. A coordinated affair with a variety of other Japanese organizations, the festival was well attended. Many of the group's board members volunteered. This has been a yearly activity for many years with the exception of the COVID years.

The Madison-Obihiro group elected 3 new members to its Board of Directors.

They are from a variety of professions and the group looks forward to incorporating them into their community and programs.

The group will be supporting the Wisconsin-Chiba delegation due to arrive in Madison on October 29-Nov. 2 and are in need of host families. Oyama-Miller encouraged committee members to let her know if they could host a high school student or adult for 5 days during this time. This is the first Wisconsin-Chiba delegation since pre COVID, and they will be doing a percussion performance as well as sightseeing in the Madison area.

The group is working on a trip to Japan in the fall of 2025. Oyama-Miller encouraged anyone interested in this project to let her know. Space is limited.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. [85544](#) Sister City Communication with Schools

The committee is looking to communicate with schools on how to get their message out. Alder Myadze has contact with one school. The committee has collaborated with schools at least thrice in the past (Kennedy Elementary for their International Evening; Sandburg Elementary for their Dual Language Immersion Group; and Monona Elementary for a long-term partnership). Alder Myadze will reach out to the 6 schools in his district. Some schools highlight different countries during different years in their curricula. Oyama-Miller will talk to a school curriculum director she knows.

4. [85545](#) Meeting Mode

The committee discussed whether, going forward, the committee should return to meeting regularly in-person or stay with a virtual format. The convenience of virtual meetings was pointed out, especially in winter months. The next (November) meeting will be right before the national election, which would make in-person difficult. The committee agreed that the next six meetings (November-March) would remain in the virtual format. Oyama-Miller proposed a motion to this effect, Carranza seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote/other. The committee planned for the topic to be addressed again in the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Oyama-Miller made, and James seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.