



# City of Madison

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

## Meeting Minutes SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

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Monday, December 15, 2014

5:30 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Room 260 (Madison Municipal Building)

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 5:35 pm.

**Present:** 8 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Lauren Cnare and Diane L. Farsetta

**Absent:** 2 - Salvador A. Carranza and Enrique R. Gandara

**Others Present:** Karen Milstein, Madison-Obihiro Sister Cities, Inc.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee discussed corrections and clarifications to the Discretionary Funding item of the October 27, 2014 minutes. James made a motion to table approval of minutes until the next meeting. Gantner seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Chair asked that everyone be sure to submit their statement of interest forms to the city as soon as possible.

### REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

#### 27505

Sister City Programs Reports

**Arcatao-** Gantner reported that Arcatao participated in the Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar and did well and it is a good outreach activity for Arcatao and the Women's Cooperative. Also participated in another fair in November- Students from Edgewood Nursing program will go to Arcatao during their semester break. She also mentioned that one of their members, Mark Rosenthal is in Sierra Leone regarding the Ebola outbreak. She will be happy to provide more information if desired.

**East Timor-** Farsetta reported that East Timor also participated in the Fair Trade and had good sales and made good connections. Discovered that the City of Middleton hosted a delegation from East Timor and they hope to go to

East Timor in 2015 as part of the International City Manager's Exchange. One of their members will be working with Middleton and try to get involved with the sister city program as well.

Mantova- Alfano spoke about the Ambassador from Italy visit to Madison on December 1st. Had breakfast with the Governor and said that in 2015 there will be a World Fair in Milan and encouraged our state to participate. Supported a luncheon with over 50 people who attended at Porta Bella. A lot of follow-up will happen including an immersion program for languages for elementary grades. They hope that it could become a national model as well. They also hope to send a delegation to Italy.

Obihiro- Oyama-Miller reported that it was a quiet month for Obihiro. The turkey project set up by the disabled community in Obihiro is ready to ship them out to Tokyo and it has been very successful. Another group of student will arrive in March as well as a mental health group in January.

Freiburg- James reported that the November 25th board meeting had a long agenda. President and James made contacts with other organizations to find out what is happening with Germany and discovered that Wisconsin has a sister state in Germany and Dane County has a sister county in Germany. In addition, there is a German School of Madison, which is an immersion program in Madison that was started by Germans living in Madison and supported by the German government. Dates for the Sister City Fair will be June 4-7. James will be going. Updating their by-laws (created in 1987). Also hosted a visitor from Freiburg who came to speak at the Wisconsin Discovery Center.

Chair also mentioned Obihiro updated their by-laws as well. Make sure that they are filing 501.c3 and forms to the proper institutions All forms are on-line and Chair encouraged everyone to look at their filings.

James also mentioned that you file yearly with the Dept. of Financial Institutions. Chair mentioned that there is a fee of \$10.

Camaquay- Heinrich reported that a delegation of 18 went to Cuba in November for 11 days. They went to the eastern part of Cuba, the most natural and undeveloped. Many members had natural resource backgrounds. They were able to connect with our sister city. We are now able to provide better support to them through the Ballet, Chamber Orchestra municipal bands. Hoped to have the Ambassador from Cuba come to Madison but it didn't work out, he may come in the Spring. There is a student who is attending the Latin American School of Medicine, a medical school in Havana. She is home in Madison on holiday and they will invite her to a get together at the Cardinal Bar later this year. Sister City programs continue to work with WI Medical Project.

Vilnius- Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported that Vilnius just had their annual Christmas Eve program at Lake Edge Lutheran Church. There was good outreach and attendance from outside their members. They are also looking at changes in their by-laws.

[35580](#)

Financial Update

Every program should have received their \$50 for the reception costs with the exception of Tepatilan. The Chair will check with Ashleigh and ensure that by 12/31/14 committee will have spent out the budget.

Chair spoke with Enis regarding what to do about an increase in funding since more requests are coming from African countries. Chair believes that one of the African countries may ask to be considered as a sister city. Chair told the inquiring persons that they must have a financial partner who will act as their non-profit organization. Alfano mentioned that the group is called the Africa Association of Madison and that the application must come from this organization.

Farsetta said that they have a local committee from East Timor but use another organization as their 501.c.3

Chair asked Enis what is the best way to expand the program and funding. Enis said that the SSCC would need to request from the City whatever amount that the committee feels is necessary to continue expansion or additional needs.

Farsetta mentioned that this issue was discussed and that there was a consensus that in the first year that a new sister city was approved, they would not be eligible for funding until their 2nd year. She stated that this solution was in response rather than in anticipation. Chair said that she would try to review notes and see what was agreed to in the past.

Gantner asked that we look at why we should/might increase our international connections beyond the economic request. Chair asked that the City review their information and make the link as coordinated as possible.

Alfano mentioned the process might include ways to gain additional funding

Chair asked that all committee members review and think about ways we can increase operational funding as well as expansion.

James also mentioned that Ashleigh forwarded him the Sister Cities Committee creating ordinance and encourages others to look at it.

[35575](#)

2015 International Festival

Billed by Overture and paid by the City. All contracts must be sent back to Karra as soon as possible. Heinrich said they have not returned back their contract because it said return two copies but he only received one. Chair suggested they make a copy and return to Karra as soon as possible.

All sister cities will be located at the same spot in the Overture as last year.

[35874](#)

2014 City Council reception

Chair felt that this year's reception had a good response and many new people attended. Chair will send out a thank you letter to the President of the Council

[34008](#)

Display case schedule for remainder of 2014

November 2014- Freiburg  
December 2014- Obihiro

James said that Freiburg will not be doing a display and Obihiro has been too busy to change the display

Schedule for 2015

January- Obihiro  
Feb- Vilnius  
March- Freiburg  
April- Arcato  
May- East Timor  
June  
July- Camaquay  
Aug- Tepatitlan  
Sept  
Oct- Mantova  
Nov  
Dec

Chair also mentioned that if you need pieces , please take them out from below the cases. Chair currently has the key to display case.

## NEW BUSINESS

[35940](#)

Fundraiser Cookbook

Farsetta said that she will review her notes and email those who volunteered to be in the workgroup. Gantner also agreed to be in the work group. She got in contact with Terese Allen and she will set up a meeting time to discuss how to best set up a cookbook. Allen is very experienced and has extensive knowledge of food and cookbooks.

Alfano mentioned that Porta Bella is a very nice venue for future events.

[36290](#)

2015 Meeting Schedule

Chair asked if the current meeting time (4th Monday) stills works for the committee. She will ask Ashleigh to schedule the time and to send out the schedule to SCCC members Heinrich asked about changing the meeting times for November and December- discussion to keep meeting as scheduled and cancel if too few members can attend.

36291

Report on Requested Information to Establish New Sister City Programs

Chair asked that all information be coordinated and placed on the City website. Please review the information on the website and let Ashleigh know if changes need to be made.

Chair discussed Park Street and what happened to the Sister Cities flags. Enis said he would be glad to help with this project. Alfano mentioned that some sister cities do NOT have flags like Mantova- but maybe those with city flags should be on the opposite side of the country flag.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alfano made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 pm. James seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.