



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Monday, September 17, 2018

5:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 118A (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- Present:** 7 - Frank L. Alfano; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Samba Baldeh; Jonathan S. Solari and Diane L. Farsetta
- Excused:** 4 - Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius and Musa Jallow

Others Present: Dawit Zenebe, Jonathan Patz, Robel Kebede, Solomon Woldesemayat, Virginia Farwell Zwickey, Rahel Desalegne, Girma Tefera and Molla Teshome (Bahir Dar Sister City representatives)

Meeting called to order by Chair, Charles James, at 5:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Carranza, seconded by Solari, to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2018 Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals from the members present.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City of Bahir Dar SCCC Application

Attachments: [Bahir Dar and Madison Sister City Application.pdf](#)

This was the opportunity for the SCCC to make their formal recommendation to the Madison Common Council on the application of the City of Bahir Dar to become a Madison sister city. Seven representatives from their founding committee were in attendance and available to respond to questions.

There was an extensive discussion about the program goals, interest and support in both communities for a relationship and why the founding committee felt that Madison and Bahir Dar were compatible.

On motion of Alfano, seconded by Baldeh, the committee unanimously approved the application of the City of Bahir Dar to become a Madison sister city.

Baldeh discussed the next step, review by the Common Council at a meeting in the near future, and the issues they should be prepared to include in their presentation. SCCC members were encouraged to attend the Common Council meeting that addresses the Bahir Dar application.

NEW BUSINESS

International Fest - February 23, 2019

Not all organizations have received an email application from the Overture Center for the event. Farsetta indicated that she has not. Carranza indicated he would forward the application to Farsetta and the other SCCC members not in attendance this evening. Applications are due by November 2, 2018.

REGULAR BUSINESS

2019 SCCC Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities

Attachments: [SCCC 041418.pdf](#)
[8-20-2018 SCCC work group notes.pdf](#)

The Celebrate Work Group met on August 20th. The following are the key recommendations resulting from discussions at that meeting:

- Return to Madison College - Truax Campus
- Saturday April 27th is the preferred date for the event
- Invite Madison Youth Choirs to return and perform
- Rearrange layout to have our outreach tables more prominent
- Highlight Arcatao and Freiburg, our oldest sister cities at the 2019 event

We strongly agreed that Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities 2019 should take place at Madison College. Alfano showed his ideas as to how to arrange the room to address concerns about the previous layout, but we all agreed that it should be in the same room(s) as this year. Carranza took a photo of the plan to share with the SCCC. We also decided that the basic schedule of activities with buffet, from 5.00 PM to 8.00 PM, worked well this year and should be kept for 2019. James agreed to make contact with Michael Ross, Madison Youth Choirs about their interest and availability.

For 2019, we decided to highlight our two oldest sister cities, Arcatao and Freiburg, and this would be our approach moving forward selecting a couple programs to feature at each successive celebrate event

We discussed having a keynote speaker as the focal point of the evening. Two names that were suggested were John Nichols and Neil Heinen. Other names included Tom Loftus and Scott Resnick. It was also recommended to approach other organizations, like Return Peace Corps Volunteers, for speaker suggestions. Farsetta encouraged that we consider female keynote speakers as

well.

We need to start looking for sponsors as soon as possible, starting no later than October. A number of names of organizations were suggested (American Family, MG&E, etc.) at the work group meeting and we are interested in suggestions from everyone on the SCCC. The work group will meet again before the October SCCC meeting.

Sister City Program Reports September 2018

Ainaro - Farsetta said they are feeling more positive about the future relationships because of the support from the new government for their medical project. A sustainability festival will be held in November in Timor Leste.

Tepatitlán - Carranza reminded the SCCC about the Latino Art Fair at the Overture Center on October 6th from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. They have an appointed representative from the new Tepatitlán administration but have not yet established dates for future visits and exchanges.

Freiburg - We will have our information table at the Farmers Market on September 22 and 29 for the last time this year. In addition to talking about Freiburg, we have been using the booklet from the April 14 celebrate event to provide information about all nine of our sister cities. On September 8, a young woman from Obihiro stopped by our table. She was a member of an exchange program that Oyama-Miller's organization created with West High School.

We have been invited to attend two conferences in Freiburg at the end of October. The first is a gathering of Freiburg's twelve sister cities and the second is an international conference on "urban transformation to a circular economy" focusing on practical and innovative examples of how to reduce energy and resource use, and make ideal use of energy sources and other resources locally.

In March 2017, a film producer from Freiburg, Buelent Gencdemir, was in Madison as part of a project sponsored by the City of Freiburg to create a documentary film on Freiburg's twelve sister cities. We recently viewed a DVD of the finished documentary which includes portions of interviews with Mayor Soglin, Eric Lewandowski and Mike Koval. The film makes their sister cities, including Madison, look very attractive and might be a project that we might consider for our sister cities.

Two local German language teachers, Sigrun Paust, Memorial High School, and Jonathan Gillette, West High School, have initiated contact with the Theodor-Heuss Gymnasium in Freiburg to create a high school exchange program beginning in 2019. If all goes as planned, a group from Madison would visit Freiburg for three weeks in June and a Freiburg group would visit Madison in September for three weeks.

Kanifing - The new Kanifing Mayor will attend the annual organization event on September 29th in Madison. Baldeh will make sure all SCCC members receive notice.

Camagüey - Ricardo Gonzales will be interviewed on WORT in November

representing MCSCA.

Arcatao - This week, MASCP is hosting Rosa Rivera from Arcatao, a long-time community activist in El Salvador. During her stay, she will speak to the El Salvador class at Edgewood College, tour the Capitol with Representative Chris Taylor, who was a member of the June delegation, and participate in an event at Centro Hispano. Ms. Rivera will also meet with professionals from UW Health about the El Salvador Health Promotion Project and is scheduled for interviews on WORT and La Movidia, WLMV.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alfano, seconded by Carranza, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.