



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Monday, May 6, 2019

5:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 108 (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Chair, Charles James, at 5:32 pm.

- Present:** 9 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Samba Baldeh; Jonathan S. Solari; Rahel Desalegne and Musa Jallow
- Excused:** 2 - Carolyn A. Gantner and Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alfano, seconded by Carranza, to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2019 Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals from the members present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no change in leadership for the committee this year. James has received clarification from Laila D'Costa in the Mayor's Office that a two-year term is appropriate and he and Zemliauskas-Juozevicius will remain as chair and vice chair, respectively, for the next twelve months.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[55515](#)

Sister City Program Reports - May 2019

Camagüey - A delegation from the Madison-Camagüey Sister City Association just completed a visit in late April. A clear impression that travelers had was the concern and anxiety that the Cuban people have about the economic effects that a ban on non-family travel, announced recently by President Trump, will have. Camagüey, like the rest of Cuba, has greatly benefitted by the relaxation of travel restrictions provided by President Obama that led to increased travel by U.S. citizens and a flourishing of private enterprise. The

U.S. Treasury Department, the federal agency responsible for our embargo on Cuba, is expected to begin making regulatory changes to implement the proposed changes.

Tepatitlan - Conchita Franco, our Delegate from Tepa, will help to finalize the site and dates when our three muralists from Madison will go to Tepa to paint a mural. Preferred places are still their central library and the building of the DIF (Federal Department for Integral Family Development).

Professor Mary Beth Collins, whose department is partnering with the University of Guadalajara (U de G) on the Museum of the Ecology sustainability projects, will visit Guadalajara and Tepa next week to meet with authorities to explore the possibility of expanding the project to Tepa and the U de G CUALTOS campus. She will also talk to them about partnering with our Earth Partnership project.

Eduardo Santana Castellón, has been in conversations with us for the U de G, including their CUALTOS campus in Tepa, to become members of the UniverCity Alliance, UW-Madison's initiative that connects the expertise of our faculty and students to help solve needs in municipalities.

We are asking that the Celebration of Sister Cities next year be moved to early May if possible so that our Madison/Tepa Sister Cities committee can visit Tepa during their annual festivities, which occur during the first two weeks of April.

Bahir Dar - Desalegne stated that they continue to make progress on obtaining non-profit status. With respect to next year's celebration event, she made a plea for a Mayor's invitation letter to be sent timely, at least three months in advance, to allow visitors from our sister cities ample time to attend.

Kanifing - Jallow reported that Jaja Cham, Chief Executive Officer of Kanifing Municipal Council was a recent guest of Madison-Kanifing Sister City at the Sister City Collaboration Committee "Celebrate Madison Sister Cities" event. During his one week stay, he visited with the mayor and a number of department heads at different city agencies.

Africa Day is the annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organization of African Unity on 25 May 1963. Each year, Madison-Kanifing Sister City celebrates the event with students at O'Keeffe Middle School with displays, presentations, and music.

The Madison-Kanifing Sister City is also partnering with Books for the World, Central Library, Retracts at the UW to have a book drive and raise funds to build a library in Kanifing.

Madison-Kanifing sister City is in the early stages of planning for its first delegation from Madison to visit Kanifing, The Gambia. Th proposed trip is expected to take place in November this year.

We are also working with a non-profit called Sharing Resources Worldwide to conduct a medical mission to Kanifing in February 2020. Doctor will perform eye exams and provide glasses to about a 1000 patients during a week long working visit.

Obihiro - Oyama Miller reported that there is not much to report for Obihiro this month as the country is celebrating the coronation of a new emperor and very few activities were done by either Obihiro or Madison.

Oyama Miller is trying to work on a grant that would allow establishing a scholarship for student exchanges between Obihiro and Madison.

The next activity will be a mental health team including two consumers, a translator and Oyama Miller to speak at a conference in Sapporo, Japan on peer and family support systems in early September.

Also in September, a group of 5 high school students will be coming to Madison.

Mantova - The two government council women visiting from Mantova were able to have meetings with city and county agencies, the UW, and other organizations during their visit for the celebrate event. Unlike Madison's alders, they have specific areas of responsibility assigned. In the case of the Mantova visitors, one has human services and the other public education. Their local visits were focused on these responsibilities and thought to be a helpful experience.

Freiburg - The Board of the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee will be meeting this coming Thursday, May 9. Among other agenda items will be a discussion of the proposed "John Jacoby Scholarship Fund" to support pre-collegiate students who would like to go to Freiburg. We will also be discussing the upcoming visit in June by students from West and Memorial High Schools to the Theodor-Heuss-Gymnasium in Freiburg. Students from the school in Freiburg will be visiting Madison in September. Finally, we will be setting up our information table at the Farmers Market starting on Saturday, June 1. We'll be there every Saturday morning in June, July, August, and September. Although we focus mainly on Freiburg, we do give out information about the other sister cities.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

[52594](#)

2019 SCCC Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities

Attachments: [SCCC_041418.pdf](#)
[8-20-2018 SCCC work group notes.pdf](#)
[11-26-2018 SCCC work group notes.pdf](#)
[2-11-2019 SCCC work group notes.pdf](#)
[Post-event reflections - Jo Oyama-Miller.pdf](#)

The SCCC engaged in a review of our 2019 event with comments about what worked and what didn't. Recommendations were offered to make improvements and modifications for next year. The SCCC agreed on the cities that will be highlighted in the next three years beginning with our European cities (Freiburg, Mantova and Vilnius) in 2020, our lone Asian city, Obihiro in 2021, and our African cities (Kanifing and Bahir Dar) in 2022. There was general agreement that we move the event to the beginning of May next year. Heinrich agreed to look at the MATC and City of Madison calendars to see what

other events are scheduled for possible conflicts to avoid. Next year there are two dates that are possibilities, Saturday May 2 or the following Saturday, May 9.

An honorarium for the Folklorico Ballet and Madison Youth Choirs was discussed and there was agreement that it would be appropriate. Several amounts were suggested. Solari suggested that we wait until the June SCCC meeting to make a final decision, after we have received the final tally of costs and proceeds from this year.

Significant comments:

- Room setup worked better than last year particularly having the buffet outside the dining area and having the information tables, dining tables and program in one room.
- The program booklet and recipe handouts were well received.
- The event program was well received with appreciation for the guest speaker presentation and MC.
- James' introduction of the sister city representatives and award to Samba Baldeh went very well. He kept his remarks concise and complete.
- Although the youth choir and ballet were appreciated for their performances, it was a consensus that we seek different entertainment for next year.
- Designate one person to manage onsite logistics - sound, performers, banquet, and cash bar - before and during the event to eliminate the issues and misunderstandings we had this year. Have an onsite MATC designee identified and present to assist us during the event.
- Clarify that payment for Sister City guests and dignitaries should come from the organizations that are hosting these individuals.
- Make sure banquet foods are labeled if there are known concerns of attendees e.g. vegetarian, Muslims and pork.
- Event participation from our sister cities would benefit from invitations from the Mayor more than a few weeks in advance. Seeking sponsors should also be initiated earlier to mesh with their budgetary calendars. The consensus was that, overall, the earlier we plan the better.
- Registration was a problem this year more so than last year. We did deemphasize the use of online purchase which resulted in an unclear record of how many tickets were sold and to whom. Our estimate of the number of attendees was inaccurate and we were fortunate that MATC provided a surplus of food.

[55598](#)

Sister City funding in future budgets

Baldeh discussed his thoughts about the future budget for the SCCC. He knows that the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Mary Bottari, is a supporter and was impressed by our recent celebrate event and the interaction the visitors from our sister cities had with city and county agencies, the UW and other community organizations. He will lead an effort to increase the committee budget to support future interactions with visitors and our efforts to engage the community with our organizations.

[55599](#)

Sister City gift inventory

Inventory needs to be replenished. Alfano suggested that we consider upgrading what we have previously provided for distinguished guests from a budget of \$1600.

Alfano also advocated for the preparation of a packet of information about the City of Madison that could be provided to our distinguished guests. This is an item that has been lacking and should receive our attention.

55600

Street signs

Motion by Carranza, seconded by Oyama-Miller, to provide a maximum budget of \$1000 for the purchase of new signs. Motion passed by voice vote.

Alfano presented the progress he has made in replacing the Park St. signs. We are looking at a cost of \$200 per sign for each of the four new signs that must be created. There are new replacements, obtained when the initial signs were purchased, for most of the remaining countries representing the location of our sister cities. We decided to eliminate the hanging of the U.S. flag to make the numbers work. It was not clear whether we need a sign representing the new City of Madison logo which Alfano will investigate.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carranza, seconded by Desalegne, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.