



City of Madison

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

Monday, December 3, 2018

5:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- Present:** 7 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Salvador A. Carranza; Jonathan S. Solari and Musa Jallow
- Excused:** 3 - Carolyn A. Gantner; Jon F. Heinrich and Samba Baldeh

Meeting called to order by Charles James, Chair, at 5:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alfano, seconded by Carranza, to approve the minutes from the November 5, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

#1 - James reported that City Council unanimously approved Bahir Dar's (Ethiopia) application to become Madison's newest sister city at their November 20 meeting. In January they will choose a representative for the Sister City Collaboration Committee.

#2 - Ainaro has withdrawn from the sister city program. The group feels they are not really a sister city group.

#3 - The SCCC meeting scheduled for January 7, 2019, might have to be postponed or cancelled if too many members will be out of town. James (perhaps Baldeh also) and Carranza will be visiting Camaguey and Tepetitlan respectively. The mayor's office will email SCCC members to learn if there will be a quorum. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius was asked to be ready to chair the meeting.

#4 - Oyama-Miller reminded us to submit our Economic Interest Statement, due

in January.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

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](#)

James distributed written notes from work group's meeting held on November 26.

Discussion included the format for the Saturday, April 27, 2019 event and a possible theme, "Our Sister Cities in the Latin American World". Featured cities will be Tepatlitan, Mexico, Arcatao, El Salvador, and Camaguey, Cuba. Neil Heinen was suggested as MC. Evening would begin with registration at 5pm, welcome from Mayor, buffet dinner at 5:45pm followed by musical performance by Madison Youth Chorus and possibly a performance by a Latino dance group from East High School. Carranza will follow up on details on the dance group. Program may also include songs/dances from the featured sister cities. The main program will begin at 7:30, starting with acknowledgement of sister city representatives (Oyama-Miller suggests allowing at least one minute for each to speak about their respective sister city.) Chair James will speak. Several names were put forth as keynote speaker: Kathy Kelly, Monica White, and Eduardo Santana. There was discussion on each of these. Carranza will contact Mr. Santana, Oyama-Miller will look for someone at UW with a Peace Corp connection.

SCCC members are encouraged to invite their respective cities' mayors without delay and ask for a letter from them to be published in the program. The set up for the 2019 event will change from last year, in that the sister cities' info tables will be placed more towards the entrance to the room so that they will be seen more readily.

More discussion was had re: cost. Alfano has heard from some that \$40 is too much. However, it is a fundraiser. It is decided that we should offer \$25 tickets to students. Method of payment will change from "Brown Paper Tickets" to another platform, perhaps PayPal or EventBrite, and checks to be sent to Kanifing's committee. Jallow will follow up. Solari brought up the point that if there is no online option for payment, we will lose potential guests.

Sponsorships – Alfano and James sent out approximately 12 letters to potential sponsors. Carranza suggested we target mid-sized companies. He will contact the Latino Chamber of Commerce. Jallow suggested we add a link to last year's event either in the sponsorship letters or on social media. James will send the PDF to Carranza and Jallow, who will decide how to proceed. The next work group's meeting will take place in mid-January.

2019 Budget

The City of Madison budget allocates \$30,000 to the sister cities program, with \$3000 reserved for mayor's discretion to use for sister cities' activities, gifts, etc.

Alfano, James, and Laila D'Costa will take inventory on gift items at city hall.
MOTION: Made by Oyama-Miller and seconded by Carranza to withhold city disbursement to sister cities until after the 2019 Celebrate event. Motion passed unanimously.

Sister City Display Case

For the month of December, all sister cities will be represented in the display case. Alfano and James set up the display with the goal of making sure every sister city was represented. It is suggested that each sister city have its own storage area on the shelves below the glass case. It was decided that the poster for last year's Celebrate event be removed as it may cause confusion.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

Sister City Program Reports December 2018

Obihiro:

Oyama-Miller returned from Obihiro on November 21, after spending two months in Japan. She congratulated Mayor Yonezawa on his re-election (the next election will be in 2022). The Mayor was appreciative of MOSC's (Madison-Obihiro Sister City, Inc.) activities over the last 16 years, and noted that Obihiro is celebrating its 50th year of being a sister city with Seward, Alaska.

Oyama-Miller met with representatives and students from Nansho Commercial High School and met the new principal. Nansho and MOSC have coordinated more than 10 exchanges and look forward to many more. On July 20, five students travelled to Obihiro for a week, and five students from Nansho came to Madison this past September. MOSC hopes to have a delegation from Obihiro in the spring, 2019.

MOSC's annual Board of Directors' meeting was held in November, during which four members had fulfilled their terms and will no longer serve on the board. Oyama-Miller has been contacting members of the community to replace their positions.

Montova:

Alfano reported that MMSC (Madison-Mantova Sister City Committee) is inviting a delegation from Mantova to discuss water improvements with UW representatives. The organization sent UW blankets to Mantova's new mayor and other contacts as "welcome" gifts. Alfano added that sending items to Europe via the USPS is much more economical than UPS.

Kanifing:

Jallow reports that Baldeh is presently there visiting. A delegation from Madison is planning to travel to Kanifing in February of 2020. The group will include medics and supplies such as eyeglasses. 1000 trash bins have been sent to Kanifing to help alleviate the problem of a dump site in the middle of town. Presently, donkeys are used to haul away trash. KMSC (Kanifing-Madison Sister City) is hoping to get two trucks to the area for better dump site management.

Tepatlitan:

In January, Carranza will be traveling to "Tepa", possibly along with Jessica Cavazos of the Latino Chamber of Commerce, to discuss economic development.

Vilnius:

There will be a celebration of Christmas Eve on Sunday, December 16, 2pm. Everyone is invited to attend. Traditionally, participants bring a meatless dish to pass and after enjoying the buffet dinner, Santa distributes gifts to the children (after they perform a song, poem, dance, etc.) This event will be held at St. Dennis School, Madison, at 2pm.

Freiburg:

At their Board meeting on November 19, they discussed the proposed high school student exchange between Memorial and West High Schools in Madison and the Theodor-Heuss-Gymnasium in Freiburg. Madison students will visit Freiburg in June of 2019, with a visit from Freiburg students in September of 2019. Madison-Freiburg will help with fundraising. Plans are underway for the annual dinner which will be held in February 2019. All sister cities will be invited to attend.

Report from Member-At-Large:

Solari reflected upon his trip to El Salvador last summer, where he was left with many impressions, and is interested in visiting all of Madison's sister cities. He is still being contacted by various groups to speak/write about his experience in Arcatao. He has spoken about El Salvador's women's health issues and abortion access, and has written an article regarding LGBT rights in El Salvador which will be published in "Our Lives" magazine, Winter edition. Solari volunteered to work at Fair Trade Fest, where Arcatao had great success in sales, due largely in part to implementation and use of the "Square" credit card system.

Lastly, Solari suggests we change the order of agenda items, putting Sister City Program Reports as our first order of business. Discussion was had about the importance of learning about each other's activities early on in the meeting, as they interconnect with other items on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Solari, seconded by Carranza, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.