



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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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, August 7, 2023

5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- Present:** 8 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Salvador A. Carranza; Charles Myadze and Jennifer C. Johnson
- Excused:** 3 - Jon F. Heinrich; Rahel Desalegne and Lamin Drammeh

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Myadze, seconded by Oyama-Miller, to approve the minutes from the May 1st, 2023 SCCC meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. [70299](#) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [78631](#) Sister City Program Reports - August 2023

Tepatitlán, Mexico (Salvador Carranza) - The Madison-Tepatitlán group has been preparing and fundraising for the trip of East High School students to Tepatitlan as part of their students exchange agreement. They will be sending 10 students and 3 chaperones to participate in festivities of the City of Tepatitlán called Juglarias. These are traditional annual festivities with the Wixaritari (Huichol) Indigenous communities of Northern Jalisco and the contiguous state of Nayarit.

East High students will join students from their Sister High School of Tepatitlán and a Wixaritari High School to learn about the culture and help prepare for the festivities, including a parade for Dia de los Muertos, where they will help with floats and dress up as traditional characters called Catrinas and Catrinos. The students will also participate in classes and school activities with the students of the Tepatitlán High School.

The students will visit the University of Guadalajara CUALTOS campus to learn about study abroad opportunities in Tepatitlán and Guadalajara and will also visit other sites of interest both in Tepatitlán and Guadalajara.

The trip will take place from October 24 to November 3. To support their trip, Carranza reported that the Madison-Tepatitlán group fundraised through several fun activities, including two karaoke nights at Garibaldi Restaurant for the community and one day helping at Lupe's Restaurant in Middleton, with all proceeds donated to the program. A third fundraising karaoke will take place at Garibaldi on September 1.

Freiburg, Germany (Charles James) - In June James visited Freiburg, where he met up with the students from West High School who were experiencing a homestay with students at their sister school, the Theodor-Heuss-Gymnasium. Their host siblings will be visiting in Madison in late September. A visit to the Capitol and to the City County Building with Mayor Satya is planned.

James reported that the Madison-Freiburg group are planning a two-week trip for next June to their three sisters -- sister city (Freiburg), sister county (Kassel) and sister state (Hessen and its capital Wiesbaden). Details will follow in September or October.

Since June 3, the Madison-Freiburg group have set up an information table every Saturday morning at the Farmer's Market on the Square. James said that after people who stop at the table express their surprise that Madison has sister cities, they typically ask: (1) what does "sister city" mean? (2) how and why do two cities become sister cities? (3) what do sister cities do?

Vilnius, Lithuania (Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) - Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported on MVSC's Annual Banquet that took place on May 5. The Consul General of Lithuania was present. A moving presentation was given by a Lithuanian American who was working with Blue Yellow USA, gathering and distributing non-lethal supplies to Ukraine, where she is located now.

In July, Zemliauskas-Juozevicius was in Vilnius. At that time, many of Vilnius officials were at the NATO conference.

In addition, MVSC will have a picnic sometime in mid-September and emails will follow with details.

Obihiro, Japan (Josephine H. Oyama-Miller) - Oyama-Miller reported that she will be going to Japan and will visit Obihiro in September/October 2023. Both organizations in Madison & Obihiro have begun to gear up to resume activities. Obihiro City has refunded the Obihiro Koryu for 2023.

Some of the projects to be resumed will be mental health, student exchanges, and farmers. Oyama-Miller will report back via email during her absence from the SCCC and will return to Madison on November 17, 2023.

Cusco, Peru (Jennifer Johnson) - Johnson reported that in June the Madison-Cusco group returned from Cusco where they met with the mayor and his staff and exchanged gifts. They brought five members of the Ho-Chunk Nation on the trip so that the indigenous peoples of the north, The Eagles, and the indigenous people of the south, the Condor could meet and connect. Johnson said this meeting might be a first of its kind, as the mission was to bring the original peoples together in community and spirit.

They stayed with the Q'ero people for 3 days and studied their cosmology, farming techniques, traditional foods and witnessed their ancient celebrations of the sun Inti Raymi.

Johnson said the trip was a resounding success and there are plans to return again. The Ho-Chunk members enjoyed absorbing the Andean culture; they brought tobacco for gifts and were given coca leaves. A meeting was held with the Secretary of the Environment of Peru to discuss the next steps to resolve their landfill problems.

They also met with the Director of International Relationships at the Universidad Andino del Cusco UAC and progressed plans to have some university and MATC professors teach on a sabbatical next year.

Headway is being made in establishing a relationship with the Global Health Institute at the UW and the UAC in response to a recent rise in Dugue fever in northern Peru.

Next steps are to plan for a visit to the US by the Cusco mayor and his environmental team and for a return back to Cusco next year for Inti Raymi.

Montova, Italy (Frank Alfano) - Alfano reported that the Madison-Montova group is possibly planning a trip to Montova next spring. Due to the excessive heat, there was no trip there this summer.

Arcatao, El Salvador (Carolyn Gantner) - Gantner reported that MASCP were among a number of groups that co-sponsored and participated in the Lanterns for Peace event on August 6th at Tenney Park. The event is sponsored by PSR (Physicians for Social Responsibility) and commemorates the horrific Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings and calls for the end to nuclear weapons.

MASCP held an event in July featuring a report back from the members of the June delegation to Arcatao. Delicious pupusas and other Salvadoran food from Finca Coffee were enjoyed during the event. They had a full house in the Co-housing community room.

While in Arcatao, the group met with the Directiva, teachers, NGOs, community activists, youth group, medical team at the clinic, women's embroidery cooperative, and more, and stayed with families in Arcatao.

This was the first trip back to Arcatao for the group since before the pandemic and was deeply meaningful to all involved, both those from Madison and the

community in Arcatao. Another trip next year is being considered.

On August 19, MASCP will be at the Farmer's Market and then again in the fall.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION

3. [78165](#) Sister City Banner and Farmers' Market

Gantner reported that there has been little interest in the Farmer's Market this summer although the Arcatao group will be there in August and the fall. She requested that if any group is interested to let and James know so that he can bring the SCCC banner to the market that day.

4. [78166](#) Sister Cities Event

Gantner reported that her proposal to the Overture Center to have a sister cities exhibit there next year was accepted. The approximate exhibit dates would be June 16 through July 21. International Fest will be June 29/30 in 2024, so the exhibit would be up during that time. The location would be the first floor rotunda area and would receive extensive visibility. Details regarding logistics will be discussed later, along with ideas for a reception.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm.