



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, November 6, 2023

5:30 PM

Virtual

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Chair, Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, at 5:31 PM.

Present: 10 - Frank L. Alfano; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Charles Myadze; Richard A. Heinemann; Lamin Drammeh and Jennifer C. Johnson

Excused: 2 - Josephine H. Oyama-Miller and Rahel Desalegne

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Carranza, seconded by Alfano, to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2023, Sister City Collaboration Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. [70299](#) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

No disclosures or recusals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zemliauskas-Juozevicius introduced and welcomed Richard Heinemann, the group's new member-at-large, attending for the first time. The other committee members introduced themselves, and the organizations they represent, and welcomed Heinemann.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

2. [80519](#) Sister City Program Reports - November 2023

Tepatitlán, Mexico (Salvador Carranza) - A group of Madison high school

students and three chaperones recently completed their visit to Tepatitlán and Guadalajara. Carranza provided details of the trip, which he said was very successful.

Freiburg, Germany (Charles J. James) - James spoke on the Madison Freiburg Sister City Committee's June 2024 trip to Freiburg and neighboring cities in Germany. He welcomed other committee members' and sister city committees' participation and requested that they contact him if they had interest/questions.

Cusco, Peru (Jennifer Johnson) - Johnson stated that the Madison Cuzco Sister City Alliance is also planning a visit in 2024 and will provide dates of the trip to the committee. The World Health Organization is currently helping Cusco provide Covid vaccinations to their citizens. Johnson explained that Cusco was isolated early in the pandemic, creating a situation that delayed vaccinations for residents.

Arcatao, El Salvador (Carolyn Gantner) - Gantner said that Madison Arcatao Sister City Project is looking forward to participating in the Madison Fair Trade Holiday Festival on December 2nd at Monona Terrace. Plans are underway for a delegation from Madison to visit Arcatao in June. The organization is attempting to organize annual visits to their sister city.

Mantova, Italy (Frank L. Alfano) - The long time Mantova mayor has been replaced and Alfano indicated that it will be interesting to see what effect it has on the sister city relationship. They are planning travel next year, both a trip to Mantova and hosting travelers from Mantova in Madison.

Kanifing, The Gambia (Lamin Drammeh) - Drammeh said that Madison Kanifing Sister City Organization is also planning a visit to Kanifing next year. He also outlined a student assistance proposal they are developing.

Vilnius, Lithuania (Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius) - Zemliauskas-Juozevicius reported that Madison Vilnius Sister Cities' annual holiday celebration will occur on Saturday December 9th at the Lake Edge Lutheran Church.

ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

3. [80103](#) Promoting Sister Cities: Brainstorming Session

A public relations subcommittee was formed--after a lengthy discussion of activities the committee members jointly and individually conduct as representatives of Madison sister cities, and whether they effectively communicate them to Madison residents.

Initially, the conversation was about member involvement in community activities--e.g. the annual International Fest at the Overture, Dane County Farmer's Market--and methods used to inform the community about sister cities' existence--e.g. interviews on the city channel, WORT interviews, the display case in the Madison City-County building. This led to examining methods that have been previously used or are available to communicate to the public.

The committee members felt it was best to form a subcommittee to continue discussions and determine the best approaches. The proposed subcommittee members included James; Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Johnson; Gantner; Heinemann; and Myadze. They agreed on November 30th for their first virtual meeting. D'Costa indicated that the subcommittee should select a chair and vice-chair. She also expressed concern about the number of committee members on the subcommittee and will check to see if an adjustment is needed.

4. [80679](#)

Meeting Mode: Virtual vs. In-Person

The members had a discussion about continuing Zoom calls or returning to in-person monthly meetings. Similar issues that were discussed previously were mentioned. The consensus of the group was to continue Zoom call meetings and discuss this topic again at a future meeting.

A motion was made by Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, seconded by Carranza, to continue monthly committee meetings by Zoom call until April 2024. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James, seconded by Carranza, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM.