



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Monday, January 23, 2017

5:30 PM 10 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Room 108 (City County
Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:35. Samba arrived late 5:45.

Present: 10 - Frank L. Alfano; Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Samba Baldeh; Enrique R. Gandara; Diane L. Farsetta and Musa Jallow

Absent: 1 - Salvador A. Carranza

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of November 28, 2016 approved unanimously on a motion by Alfano, seconded by James.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

Jo reminded everyone to provide a written program report to her before the February 2017 SCCC meeting to assist note taker in providing complete and accurate information.

It was confirmed that all members have provided their economic interest statement for 2017.

45712

Sister City Program Reports

Vilnius - Daina reported that 2016 was a difficult year with the loss of four members, two of whom served on the Madison-Vilnius Sister City (MVSC) board. These unfortunate losses have significantly affected the organization.

MVSC partnered with UW's Center for East Europe and Central Asia (CREECA) and the Institute for Regional and International Studies to host NY Times best selling author Ruta Sepetys (<http://rutasepetys.com/about/>), a historical fiction author, who writes for adolescents but has many adult fans. She was in Madison on January 11th to discuss her book, "Between the Shades of Gray" which concerns the Lithuanians' struggle during WW II. She spoke to 7th graders at Patrick Marsh Middle School in Sun Prairie and to the Madison community on the UW Campus.

In December MVSC provided financial support to the Vilnius non-profit orphanage "Gyvenam". The organization had their annual Christmas celebration on December 18th. In October, in cooperation with CREECA, they sponsored a visit and talk by UW-Eau Claire Professor Henry Jol concerning his work in Vilnius using ground penetrating radar to locate a Holocaust escape tunnel.

Freiburg - Charles reported that Gerlinde Kurzbach of Freiburg was in Madison in late December to discuss the 30th anniversary celebration to be held in Freiburg this coming June as well as continue discussions on the cooperation between the UW Arboretum and Muendenhof, a nature preserve near Freiburg, on their establishment of a North American native prairie. Their annual meeting will be on February 22, 2017 starting at 5:00 PM at the University Club, with the MATC Big Band as guests. The MATC Big Band will be visiting the German cities of Kassel and Freiburg in June. Charles said they will have their information stand at the Farmers Market again this year, June thru August. A monument to Arvid and Mildred Fish Harnack is being considered for installation on the UW campus. This link to a Wisconsin Media Lab biography http://wimedialab.org/biographies/books/harnack_level1_fullpage.pdf tells the story of the couple's resistance to Nazi Germany.

Ainaro - Diane reported that they continue to make progress in developing a May fund raising event as well as their sustainable agriculture project with Permatil in Timor. They had a successful event at the Fair Trade Hotliday Festival in December. They are also following up with the visitor coming to Madison in May in conjunction with the Global Public Health program at the UW-Madison.

Mantova - Madison - Mantova will have its 15th anniversary next year. Planning and fundraising for a celebratory event is underway.

Kanifing - Musa Jallow has been officially acknowledged as the SCCC representative of the Kanifing-Madison Sister City organization. Musa provided a brief update on the political situation in the Gambia that has been in the recent news. Their first organizational luncheon, initially scheduled for February 18th, will be at a later date not yet established. They will be participating in the February International Fest at the Overture Center. Jerreh

Kujabi reports that their nonprofit status is still in progress.

Arcatao - Carolyn said that they had a successful day at the Fair Trade Holiday Fest held at Monona Terrace in December selling many arts and crafts from the artisan and embroidery co-op in Arcatao and fielding many inquiries about their sister city relationship and Madison's other sister city relationships.

Students and instructors from the Edgewood College class on El Salvador traveled there during semester break this month. At a date yet to be determined the students will be sharing their reflections from the trip which included meeting with organizations working on environmental, medical and other issues.

Madison Arcatao Sister City Project (MASCP) has a new expanded website at www.mascp.org that is still being updated and will include a link to the SCCC.

Camagüey - Madison-Camaguey Sister City Association (MCSCA) has a trip to Cuba in March 2017. Seventeen participants will begin their educational tour in Camaguey and then travel to the east of Cuba, near the area devastated by Hurricane Matthew last October. In addition to visiting several natural areas in that part of the island the group will provide funds to the city of Baracoa to assist in hurricane relief. The group will also bring donations to the Camaguey community organizations we support.

The Cardinal Bar is closing, the location for our fundraisers and other special events. We will participate in one last event on Saturday January 28th a flea market including Cuban art and artifacts. The event is from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

We expect to learn more in the next few weeks whether the initiatives of the Obama administration for a more open relationship with Cuba will be reversed. It is our hope that the increased commerce with Cuba by the U.S. since 2014 will be a compelling reason to stay the current course of an improving relationship.

Obihiro – MOSC has little to report this month. We elected two new board members- Malia Aaron Gavney (student from Shabazz HS) and Kelly Goelke. They will both serve one year (renewable terms). Future activities have yet to be decided. Oyama-Miller will be travelling to Japn in mid April and will clarify activities at that time, (insert written report)

[45713](#)

International Festival - February 25, 2017

Jo reported that all groups have signed up. Jo said that Karra Beach, Overture Center, asked her to remind everyone to please follow the load-in and load-out restrictions for the event.

[45714](#)

The Gambia Resolution and appointment of committee member

The resolution has been adopted and Musa Jallow was welcomed as the Kanifing representative on the SCCC.

[45715](#)

Committee Member Applications

Jo reported that the committee is still lacking a candidate for city wide representative on the SCCC to replace Enrique. Please let Jo know if you have a recommendation.

NEW BUSINESS

[45716](#)

Election of 2017 Officers

Alfano put up for discussion that Chair and Vice Chair for this committee rotate among the current sister cities program in the future. Motion to elect for 2017 Carolyn Gantner, Chair, and Diane Farsetta, Vice Chair, approved unanimously on a motion by James, seconded by Alfano.

Well deserved appreciation from all members present given to Jo for her leadership during her time as SCCC Chair.

[45719](#)

Community Event 2017

In response to Baldeh's interest in having the SCCC develop a community event as a means of making our activities and programs more visible a work group was formed to develop a proposal for a 2018 event. Members include Daina, Charles, Musa and Jon. Jon volunteered to organize the first meeting in early February. Samba will attend that meeting to share his vision. A status report will be provided at the next SCCC monthly meeting.

Samba Baldeh encouraged everyone to attend the Sunday January 29th event at the Monona Terrace - United We Stand: A Community Gathering in Support of Our Neighbors Subject to Deportation or Discrimination.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn approved unanimously on a motion by James, seconded by Alfano.