



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft SISTER CITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Monday, May 22, 2017

5:30 PM 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Room 108 (City County
Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by Diane Farsetta.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Previous meeting minutes approved on motion by Heinrich seconded by Alfano. All approved.

Present: 9 - Frank L. Alfano; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Samba Baldeh; Enrique R. Gandara; Diane L. Farsetta and Musa Jallow

Absent: 2 - Josephine H. Oyama-Miller and Carolyn A. Gantner

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

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Sister City Program Reports (please limit to around 200 written words and oral report about 4 minutes).

Mantova - Frank passed out flyers for Fiesta Italia which will be at McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg June 2, 3, and 4.

Ainaro - Taste of Timor held at the Goodman Community Center on May 20th, was deemed a successful event.

Diane wished to correct the March minutes that incorrectly reported that the encounter with Rick Scott, former USAID mission director in Timor-Leste and UW-Madison graduate, was part of the Taste of Timor. It was instead an event held separately from the Taste of Timor.

Camagüey - We have initiated the development of a trip to Cuba that would

focus on the remnant Jewish communities that still exist (synagogues and congregations) with planned encounters with four communities - Camagüey, Sancti Spiritus, Cienfuegos, and Santa Clara. This Cuba tour is being developed in collaboration with Robert Skloot, UW Professor Emeritus. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 resulted in a drastic reduction in the number of Jews living on the island, from 20,000 then to less than 1,000 today. Within the past 15 years small groups have worked to revitalize their Jewish communities in Cuba. This movement has received support from the Jewish community in the U.S. and this trip is being developed for Madison's Jewish community to contribute to that effort.

Tepatitlán - Sal reported that they are still pursuing nonprofit status for the organization.

Freiburg - Charles introduced Laura Patzold, from Freiburg, who is working as an intern in the Mayor's office this summer.

The Board of Directors of the Committee met on May 9, 2017, at the home of John and Barbara DeMain. One of our Board members, Chris Tabisz, successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis at UW-Madison. He will be leaving Madison in June to teach German at the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) in St. Paul, Minnesota. The main topic was preparations for the trip to Freiburg from June 23 to 25 to celebrate 30 years of sisterhood! Eric Lewandowski, Charles James, Barbara DeMain, Dick Kottenbeutel and Carolyn Hackler will be part of the delegation from Madison attending the celebration. We will be bringing along a pull-up display banner we are producing showing scenes of Madison. It will be a gift to our counterpart organization in Freiburg.

We are cosponsors of the visit of the Madison College Big Band to Dane County's sister county (Kassel) and to our sister city Freiburg from June 19 to 25.

We will be setting up an information table on the Square during Saturday Farmers Markets in June, July and August. The first Farmers Market for us is Saturday, June 3. We have the extra copies from the International Festival in February which we will hand out next to Colonel Heg!

Vilnius - The Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S., Rolandas Kriščiūnas, from Washington D.C. came to Madison to speak at the Madison Vilnius Sister Cities (MVSC) annual banquet on May 6th at the Madison Club. During his visit the Ambassador also met with the Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor, visited Oshkosh Defense in Oshkosh, WI, met with executives of Thermo Fisher Scientific, a biotech firm with a company in Vilnius and spoke at the Pyle Center, his talk was entitled "Lithuanian - US Relations in Today's World". A special vocalist from Chicago (via Lithuania), 16-year old Agne Giedraitė, performed at the annual banquet. She is an accomplished soprano who has performed at Carnegie Hall.

Daina spoke about Lithuania on May 18th at Sun Prairie High School during their cultural week. Copies of the Madison Sister Cities brochure were made available to the 70 students that attended and she did mention Madison's other sister city relationships.

Kanifing - Musa and Samba will be at Africa Fest at Georgia O’Keeffe Middle School on May 25th. Ten local Africa organizations will be present to provide information to students.

Arcatao - Good news regarding Arcatao and the rest of El Salvador is that, through many efforts by Salvadoran activists and their international partners in the U.S. and elsewhere, metallic mining has been banned from El Salvador. Our sister city, and members of Madison Arcatao Sister City Project (MASCP), have been involved in this important environmental movement for over 10 years. Our Facebook page has a number of news articles that provide more information about this environmental victory for El Salvador.

Our colleagues in El Salvador, Victor and Zulma, will be in Madison the first week of October. Events are being planned in collaboration with organizations including the UW - Madison Latin American Studies and Edgewood College. After Madison our visitors will also visit other Salvadoran sister cities in the Midwest.

Obihiro - A student exchange tour is under development for early September.

A mental health and senior health care delegation will come to Madison sometime in October. This will include a researcher from University of Tokyo to study family support for both mental health and senior care. Her visit was inspired by the work that has been occurring between Madison and Obihiro. The researcher would like to explore how community health systems in Madison can be replicated throughout Japan.

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Statement on Immigration Draft Update

Carolyn is editing the statement on immigration. It will be used by MASCP to reflect their position on this issue. We discussed placing the edited statement on the sister city page. Carolyn should send the revised draft to Laura. Laura will discuss with Enis Ragland the possibility of having this occur.

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Cook Book Report

Jo will distribute a suggested format and will communicate with everyone regarding the next steps needed for completion of everyone’s chapter upon her return from Japan.

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Display Case updated schedule for remainder of 2017

Freiburg has June and July; Kanifing has the case in August, Tepatitlán September and Mantova October. November, December and January the display case will be shared by all sister city organizations. The importance of communications was emphasized to ensure that the transition between display case users is timely.

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Celebrate Madison Sister Cities Event

The work group shared the estimate received from the Concourse Hotel for an event next April. Frank has contacts at the Concourse and felt it was possible to obtain a reduction in costs from their initial proposal. An estimate from the Edgewater will also be obtained.

The work group was encouraged to look broader in the search for an event locale to keep costs reasonable. MATC should be contacted. Sal knows Jeff Bradshaw, MATC head of international programs. Sal promised to contact Jeff about our event. Frank knows Paul Short, Dean of the MATC culinary school, another important contact that may be helpful in developing our event.

Charles and Samba shared a list of potential keynote speakers with the group. Committee members provided additional recommendations. Samba will develop a script for the Mayor's Office to use in making the initial contact with those on this list.

The work group was advised to continue establishing details and determining upfront costs, including keynote speaker fees, so an informed decision could be made about this event.

NEW BUSINESS

[47379](#)

Meeting time/quorum/importance of communications regarding attendance.

Diane encouraged everyone to promptly respond to meeting notices from Jasmine and to keep Jasmine informed if your attendance status changes. It was confirmed by all that the current meeting schedule and time does not need to be altered.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Bringing written program reports to the meeting as well as providing a copy by email to the meeting chair was agreed to be the approach we should be taking to keep this part of our agenda timely and assist note takers in preparing meeting minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn approved unanimously on a motion by James, seconded by Carranza at 6:50pm All approved.