



City of Madison

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

Monday, August 6, 2018

5:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Chair, Charles James, at 5:30 PM.

Present: 9 - Josephine H. Oyama-Miller; Carolyn A. Gantner; Daina P. Zemliauskas-Juozevicius; Charles J. James; Jon F. Heinrich; Salvador A. Carranza; Samba Baldeh; Jonathan S. Solari and Diane L. Farsetta

Absent: 2 - Frank L. Alfano and Musa Jallow

OTHERS PRESENT

Laila D'Costa, Mayor's Staff; Jerreh Kujabi, Madison-Kanifing; Dawit Zenebe, Abenezzer Sahle, Daniel Abebe and Rahel Desalegne, Bahir Dar Sister City Applicants.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of May 21, 2018 approved unanimously on a motion by Jo, seconded by Diane. Carolyn offered one clarification concerning the Sister Cities Photo Exhibit agenda item. The May minutes identify the Overture Center as the likely location and Carolyn indicated that a preferred site has not been identified and that other locations are also being considered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

September SCCC Meeting Date

Since the first Monday in September is Labor Day an alternative date is needed for the next meeting. It was recommended that the third Monday, September 17th, be established as the alternative date for the next meeting. Charles will ask Jasmine to poll SCCC members to see if a quorum would be able to make that date.

Possible Sister Cities Photo Exhibit

Carolyn is leading the effort to have a sister cities photo exhibit that would coincide with our next celebrate event. The location is yet to be determined and Carolyn is looking at a number of possibilities.

REGULAR BUSINESS

2019 SCCC Celebrate Madison's Sister Cities

Attachments: [SCCC_041418.pdf](#)

A five-person work group was created that includes Sal, Jo, Charles, Frank and Jon. The group was encouraged to meet before the September SCCC meeting to discuss dates and locations for the 2019 event. Carolyn offered to coordinate outreach as she had for the 2018 event and Samba will handle liaison with the Mayor's office.

The 2018 event was profitable. After some discussion a motion from Jo and seconded by Sal was approved unanimously that these funds be retained and managed by Kanifing as a reserve for the next celebrate event. Previously the SCCC had discussed an honorarium for Madison Youth Choirs. Jon made a motion recommending \$300 from the reserve funds and Jo suggested an alternative of \$100. After some additional discussion, Jon amended his motion to \$200, which was seconded by Daina and approved unanimously.

Sister City Program Reports August 2018

Vilnius - Their annual picnic will be on September 15th.

Tepatitlán - A new administration has been elected in Tepatitlán and will not assume office until October 1st. As a result, the Madison - Tepatitlán committee has decided to plan their next visit for mid-October or later at a time that best suits the new mayor and cabinet. The committee has invited

three of their artists to participate at the Latino Arts Fair at the Overture Center on October 6th.

The committee asked about the status of the cookbook for sister cities. They are interested in printing a pilot of their recipes and wanted to see if the SCCC had any objection. No objections were raised. Jo suggested that the cookbook be placed on the agenda for the September meeting and mentioned the possibility of a sister city calendar as an alternative to consider.

Sal identified three main initiatives that the committee is continuing preparations for:

- A visit next year by three Madison artists to paint a mural in Tepatitlán's municipal building or history museum.
- The eye clinic for their adopted elementary school.
- Starting an Earth Partnership in Tepatitlán schools.

Ainaro - Diane reported that they have had discussions with their Timor partners about recent elections and are getting the impression that the government will be more stable and supportive of their partnership.

Kanifing - The medical supplies and equipment prepared with the assistance of the Wisconsin Medical Project have been distributed to clinics and hospitals in The Gambia. They have established a visit from eye surgery NGO for December.

The Kanifing Mayor has been invited and will attend the annual organization event on September 29th in Madison.

Arcatao - The June 2018 delegation visit included Wisconsin legislator Chris Taylor and her perspectives can be read in this piece in the Capital Times - https://madison.com/ct/opinion/column/rep-chris-taylor-citizens-flee-for-their-lives-from-heartbreaking/article_4aa73566-cfb8-533e-86b8-ed615cf89574.html. Jonathon was also a member of this delegation and he shared his insights and observations on conditions in El Salvador and the migration crisis. Delegation members were also interviewed on WORT and Milwaukee public radio WUWM.

MASCP members Ian Davies and Marc Rosenthal will be teaching an El Salvador class at Edgewood College in the fall and spring semesters (2018-19) with the students and others traveling to Arcatao and other areas of El Salvador in January. This class is held every other year and has been an ongoing program of MASCP.

In April, the first delegation of the El Salvador Health Promotion Project from the United States visited El Salvador to assess community health needs. Delegation members toured health facilities and talked with community leaders, mental health practitioners, and health promoters. The opportunity to talk with people who are working in health care disciplines in a variety of contexts in El Salvador provided a wealth of information about Salvadorans' health care needs and informs how this project can be designed to be collaborative and sustainable. Specifically, this project will focus on the mental and psychological health-related issues and needs identified by

Salvadoran professionals and community members.

Camagüey - The Madison-Camaguey Sister City Association (MCSCA) has trip dates established for this year and 2019 to visit our sister city and other parts of Cuba. Our sister organization, the Wisconsin Medical Project, is experiencing extensive delays in receiving approval from the Cuban government to deliver medical supplies to our sister city. They have been fortunate to develop relationships with several African nations, including The Gambia, as recipients of shipping containers of donated medical supplies and equipment.

Obihiro - A group of three medical professionals from Obihiro visited in May with a focus on senior care issues. They went to both public and private health care facilities and engaged in discussions with health care professionals at the places they visited. Six Madison high school students visited Obihiro in July staying with host families. Five students from Obihiro are planning to visit Madison in September.

Jo will be making an extensive two-month visit to Japan beginning in September.

Jo said they are involved in establishing relationships between Japanese farming communities and Madison and other Wisconsin farming communities involved in beef cattle raising with a specific interest in addressing concerns about mad cow disease affecting their markets.

Freiburg - Charles reported that Madison-Freiburg's information table has been at the Farmers Market since June. Many people that stop by ask about all of Madison's sister cities. Charles said he and another member of Madison-Freiburg, Lizzie Kunze, were interviewed on WORT last week.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dane Dances Update August 2018

Jonathon reminded the SCCC about our volunteer responsibilities at the August 24th event, that the link for sign-up has been provided (<http://signup.com/go/szxfDYj>) and that a table would be available to place organization handouts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City of Bahir Dar SCCC Application

Attachments: [Bahir Dar and Madison Sister City Application.pdf](#)

The SCCC will have their discussion about the Bahir Dar application at their next meeting. There were four representatives from the group in attendance. There was a good discussion concerning roles and responsibilities of the SCCC and the Madison Common Council in review of their application and some of

the specifics their application should address.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn approved unanimously on a motion by Jo, seconded by Sal.
Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.