



DRAFT MINUTES (to be approved on 11/13/18)

CA International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC) Meeting

September 26, 2018 7:00-8:30 pm

Vision Room (Board Room) @ CA Headquarters

In attendance: Bob Anantua, Sue DiPaula, Magdalena Castro-Lewis, Hui Dong, Farida Guzdar, Joan Holloway, Kathie Martin, Roberto Martin, Valerie Montague (Chair), Gabriel Pomary, Linda Potsiadlo, Arna Rubman, Jean Salkeld

CA Staff: Laura Smit, Grace Chang

Guests: Tracy Adkins and David Zeitzer

1. Welcome & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves, their village and their reason for being at the meeting. At the next meeting in November, there will be an icebreaker activity so that the members can get to know each other as there are many new members.

2. Chair's Report – Valerie Montague

Nothing to Report

3. Program Manager's Report – Laura Smit

- Laura noted that the Community Action Council fundraiser dinner, at which the Nigerian author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is the keynote speaker, will be October 9th. The cost is \$90 and she has one ticket left.
- She informed the committee that she has accepted the position of Maryland State Representative for Sister Cities International and she will be attending a leadership conference in November.

4. Approval of July 10, 2018 Minutes

- Corrections to the July 10, 2018 IMAC meeting minutes are: Page 1 under Program Manager's Report, put a period after home in line 4; Page 3, put a period after (China time) in line 3; and Page 3, delete [I believe Laura said Yes...]
- The minutes were unanimously approved with the above corrections.

5. Reports from Sister City Subcommittees

Liyang, China – Hui Dong, Chair

- The signing of the Sister City Agreement between Columbia and Liyang took place on September 10, 2018 at 10:00 am at Historic Oakland, Town Center. There were 10 members in the Liyang delegation. There were many IMAC volunteers and Liyang Sister City Committee members in attendance as well as CA Board and staff. Milton Matthews and the Mayor of Liyang gave good speeches. Grace Chang

- made beautiful centerpieces with American and Chinese flags. The event was well attended and considered a great success. The delegation went to Hui's house for a Mission BBQ lunch and to Seasons 52 for dinner. Laura showed us photos of the event as well as a news broadcast in Chinese.
- Linda Potsiadlo has begun teaching English via Skype to *th grade students at Liyang middle school. She reported their English is good. The lessons take place on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm our time (7:00 am their time) and last for 40 minutes. Valerie asked if Linda would be willing to be interviewed for the Columbia Flyer or CA Monthly. She said she would like a few more weeks to get the class established before being interviewed.
 - The next Liyang Committee meeting is on Wednesday, October 3rd, at Barbara Kellner's house with Chinese food.

Cergy-Pontoise – Laura reporting for members of the Cergy-Pontoise Committee

- Thirteen people went to France for an artist exchange, 7 artists and 6 companions, and Lucie Geinzer who acted as translator. The 10-day trip was packed with activities. Artists from sister cities in Germany and Spain also participated in the art show at Grouchy Castle in Osny. Everyone had a great time. Laura showed us some photos.

Cap-Haitien – Bob Anantua, Chair

- Since the July 2018 trip to Haiti for the Global Leadership Program was cancelled due to protests in the country, they are planning the next trip for July 2019 (dates to be announced).
- A trip to Haiti for a collaborative leadership program for adults is being planned for the end of January 2019 and will be finalized in October. It will be for 7 to 8 days and cost \$2,954.
- Greta Swanson, Vice-Chair of the subcommittee, followed up with Fretz Kitchen Store about a cooking show and food tasting fundraiser and was told we cannot hold it there. Grace Chang would be willing to host the fundraiser at her house and could accommodate 15 people.
- Bob Anantua took all the educational and medical supplies that were collected to his uncle in New Jersey for shipment to Haiti.

Tema – Gabriel Pomary, Chair

- Five people went to Ghana on September 17th and are on their way back now. They spent 2 nights in Tema; had dinner with the new mayor, visited the Central Library, an industrial school library and checked on the status of the books we sent them. Becky Chapman will report on the trip at the next subcommittee meeting on October 4th.
- Howard Community College is planning a study abroad program trip to Ghana in fall 2020. This has been in the planning stages for 4 years. Gabriel Pomary would like them to look at the slave trade and the peaceful coexistence of central and local governments with the tribal chiefs.

Tres Cantos – Magdalena Castro-Lewis, Chair

- Sadly, there is nothing to report. There seems to be a lack of leadership in Tres Cantos. Laura said Flor Orjales, who participated in our Columbia Sister City artist exchange, will talk to the Minister of Culture there. Apparently, it is difficult to find host families.

6. Africa CultureFest – Oct 14, 2018

- The location is the Miller Library from 1:30 – 4:30 pm.
- No food trucks have been found yet. We may offer packaged food on the tables, like dates and plantains. Laura will contact the Maryland Association of Food Trucks.
- The library has agreed to let people sell things during the event.
- Laura passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet. We need volunteers at the IMAC table and at least 2 volunteers at each of the country tables.
- The co-founder of the African American Art Museum Doris Ligon wants to be involved. A group from the IMAC will go to the Museum on Friday, October 5th, to help decide what art to bring to the CultureFest and determine how to get it to the Miller Library.
- Sue DiPaula will check to see if she has enough material to set up a Tanzania table.
- Laura is still working on finding more African performers, vendors and exhibitors.

7. CA Board of Directors Request

- The Board requested that each chair of the various CA committees provide recommendations on how CA can enhance its programs and facilities to better serve their respective group. Valerie Montague wanted us to brainstorm on this and asked, “What does the international community in Columbia need?”
 - Farida mentioned putting up a signpost at the lakefront to show how many miles to each of our sister cities.
 - Collaboration with the Columbia International Film Society for a dinner and a show was proposed.
- Laura said it would be ideal if there were always someone in the membership area at CA that spoke Spanish, as she translates when needed and she is in the building.
- Laura also noted that she has been asked to provide cheaper access to pools for immigrant families. There is already a program where good students can earn a free membership for themselves and their families.
- Collaboration with FIRN was mentioned.
- Linda Potsialdo proposed information sessions for immigrant families to let them know what programs CA offers.
- This was a good start and Valerie wants to have concrete recommendations to present to the Board by next summer.

8. Next IMAC Meeting – November 13, 2018 at 7 pm.

9. Upcoming Programs and Events

- World Languages Cafe: Oct 23, Nov 27, Dec 18
- International Book Club: Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12
- Multi-Cultural Festival at St. Matthews Orthodox Church, Oct 5-7
- Africa CultureFest: Oct 14

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue DiPaula, IMAC Secretary