

MIAMI BEACH SISTER CITIES

COMMITTEE MEETING

November 14 – 12:00 Noon Minutes

1. Call to order

Chairwoman Moni called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm

Liaison Heather Shaw indicated the Members present: Moni Cohen (Chair), Laura Levey (Vice Chair), Matti Bower, Allison Buttacavoli, John Ospitia, Janinha Piazzetta, Marffa Amezcua, and Blanca Villarello.

2. October 21, 2024 Minutes were approved unanimously with edits.

3. Old Business

a. Committee Goals and Objectives

- i. Chair Moni suggested that the Committee invite George Neary to share the history of Miami Beach Sister Cities programs.
- ii. Chair Moni asked that Committee look at list of Sister Cities for a future discussion of the status of the Sister Cities and what cities should be moved to Friends and which are dormant.

b. Events:

i. Art Week

Member Blanca suggested moving forward with an event in December 2025 honoring the Switzerland Chamber of Commerce and Basel Sister Cities during Art Week. Member Blanca suggested inviting Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce Pillar Board members, Bobby Goodman (suggested by Jackie Budin) and Member Blanca will contact Member Brittne to confirm Chamber presence.

Motion: The Miami Beach Sister Cities Committee recommends the approval of, not more than, \$3,000 to budget a Miami Beach Sister Cities event to honor the Swiss Chamber of Commerce and the Basel, Switzerland Sister City. - The motion was presented by Member Matti Bower and seconded by member Allison Buttacavoli.

Chair Moni suggested that the next Sister Cities be held in the Rum Room so the committee can see the space. Heather to arrange and draft invitation and signage. Luis shared that no monetary donations can be accepted by Sister Cities.

ii. Fujisawa, Japan/Marathon/Prizes (January)

The Committee discussed Aron Soriano, Luis Wong, and or Luis Atencio running the marathon on behalf of Miami Beach. Aron or Heather to speak with Veronica Coley regarding two medals

to send to Fujisawa, and follow up with Miami Beach High School regarding the music video performance.

also asked for gift suggestions for the Fujisawa delegation to gift to the host.

4. New Business

- a. George Neary suggested that the Committee invite the founder of Dance Now to the next meeting to make a presentation of Dance Now's partnership with Portugal. They are planning a performance in Sister City Cascais, Portugal in 2025, and Cascais is planning a performance in Miami/Miami Beach in 2026. The Miami Beach Visitor and Convention Authority is sponsoring Dance Now. Chair Moni will handle.

5. Good and Welfare

Members discussed purchasing gifts (e.g. Tiffany boxes) as special gifts for Sister City visits. Lucy Delgado suggested the Committee consider going to the Cozumel, Mexico carnival and that she can assist.

6. Adjournment - Next meeting is November 18, 2024