

MIAMI BEACH SISTER CITIES

COMMITTEE MEETING

November 4, 2024 – 12 noon Minutes

1. Call to order

Chairwoman Moni called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm

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

2. Review and approve October 21, 2024 meeting minutes – Minutes were tabled for next meeting.

3. City Attorney's Office – Sunshine Law Briefing - Deputy City Attorney Nick Kallergis reviews the Florida Sunshine Laws with the Committee and answers questions.

4. Old Business

- a. Review and Approval of Draft Bylaws - Mission, Vision, and Values – discussion tabled.
- b. Committee Goals and Objectives – Members discussed engaging with the Miami Beach Senior High Marine Biology Program and the Guy Harvey Program for environmental engagement. Members will contact Guy Harvey for more information.
- c. SCI Best Practice Sessions/Roundtables

- i. Review the current sister city relationships and prepare a proposal for which ones to continue, reclassify as "friends", or retire.

5.

a. Engagements:

i. 2024:

- Ukraine (Ballet – Oct 26th);
- Nahariya, Israel (Ambulance – Nov 14th @10:30am)
- Chair Moni is finalizing the plans and request support of the Committee on the day of event and asked that members reach out to the mayors/commissioners of Aventura, Surfside, and Bal Harbour to invite them to the Nahariya ambulance dedication event.

6. New Business

a. Engagements:

- i. 2025 – Fujisawa, Japan (MBSH Rock Ensemble [Jan]/Marathon/Prizes [March])
- ii. Member Blanca requested discussion about coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce on a potential event with the Swiss delegation during Art Basel in December.
- iii. Discuss on whether to consider new Sister City relationships with Jamaica and Chile and discuss potential educational and cultural exchange programs the Committee should review.
- iv. Margery York suggested exploring the possibility of a United Nations Day event at the Botanical Garden's Peace Park involving all sister city council generals. Also mentioned is a potential collaboration with the Japanese Festival in the Botanical Garden.

7. Good and Welfare

- Committee needs to focus on a structured approach to event planning and logistics PR agent for continuous fundraising to support events.
- Clear communication and compliance with the Sunshine Law are essential.

8. Adjournment - Next meeting is November 14, 2024