



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



Minutes of the January 4, 2012, meeting of Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Takako Wakita at noon. Members present were: Takako Wakita, Chairperson; Wayne Hewitt, Vice Chairperson; Janet Baker, Recording Secretary; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Jan Olivas, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Alt.); Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; Linda Gunther, Staff Representative. No representatives present from Dingle, Ireland, San Juan, Philippines, and Patras, Greece. Guests attending: Gil and Marti Garcia, Marian Freeman, Michael Fitzgerald, Dingle, Ireland; Karen Ramsdall, Santa Barbara Airport Director; and Frank Tripicchio, SO CAL President..

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the minutes of the November 2, 2011 Sister Cities Board were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Takako Wakita gave a brief report of the SO CAL meeting held in Santa Barbara at the Philippines Community Center on September 3, 2011. Takako announced the SO CAL Conference will be held on February 21, 2012 at Chapman University campus in Orange, Ca. Takako announced that Gil Garcia is a new member of the SO CAL Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Takako introduced Michael Fitzgerald and asked him to give a brief talk on how he happened to become affiliated with the Dingle, Ireland Sister City.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Additions to the Calendar are Weihai Chinese New Year Party on January 26th at the China Pavilion. A visitation to Santa Barbara of a group from the Ukraine from March 16 - 24th. Day of Mexico at Westmont College on March 24, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On May 2, 2012, the 40th Anniversary meeting of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta, Mexico Sister City at Elks Club.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SANTA BARBARA SISTER CITIES PRESENCE AT THE SANTA BARBARA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT: Karen Ramsdell, Airport Director, asked for ideas of how to present. Takako suggested possibly a display case like the one at the Main Library. Ms Ramsdell asked to have a sub-committee from the Sister Cities Board to meet with her to come up with some ideas. Takako Wakita, Linda Mathews and Linda Gunther from the Board and Gil Garcia and Michael Fitzgerald, non Board members volunteered to meet with her.

Chairperson, Takako Wakita, introduced Mr. Frank Tripicchio, President of the SO CAL Board, who extended an invitation to the SO CAL Conference on February 21, 2012 at Chapman University campus in Orange, Ca. Registration fee \$50.00.

AMENDMENTS TO GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING A NEW SISTER CITY: Discussion was held regarding the proposed changes and action was tabled until the March 7th meeting.

UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION: Date for the 2012 celebration was confirmed for October 25, 2012.

OPEN WORLD PROGRAM 2012 at WESTMONT COLLEGE IN SANTA BARBARA: Gil Garcia said they are expecting 6 to 10 people from the Ukraine for this meeting and will need host families. They will arrive on March 16 and leave on March 24th. A Welcome Party is planned for Friday night March 16th, and a tour of Santa Barbara on Saturday, March 17th. Meetings will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at various locations.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY TV (CHANNEL 18): Takako reported that she will do the overview in January; no date had been set as yet.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly reported there will be a dinner on January 7th and two students from the Culinary Arts Program will be preparing the food. Also, the young singers from Santa Barbara that performed at the Kotor Music Festival last year and also at our United Nations Day celebration will be performing at this dinner. George also told of an upcoming piano concert by Ratimer Martinovic from Kotor performing at the Santa Barbara City College Fe Bland Forum on February 19, 2012, admission \$50.00. The Water Polo team exchange and Women's Economic Development in Kotor are ongoing projects.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Jan Olivas announced the Puerto Vallarta group will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary this year and their meeting on May 2, 2012, will be a special event to honor Past Presidents and others who have made outstanding contributions to the organization. The annual visitation of the Puerto Vallarta group to Santa Barbara will be July 19 -26th. Gil Garcia is promoting a student exchange in the Arts.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported a group had just returned from a visit to Toba to celebrate the 45th year of its founding as a Sister City. She extended an invitation to the Shin Nen Kai celebration dinner (Year of the Dragon) on Sunday, January 22nd at the Faulkner Gallery in the downtown library. The price is \$45.00 for members and \$50.00 for non-members.

Dingle, Ireland: No representative attended and no report was made.

San Juan, Philippines: No representative attended and no report was made.

Patras, Greece: No representative attended and no report was made.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Baker, Recording Secretary