

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, November 13, 2013

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Takato Wakita at 12:01 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, chairperson; Barbara Ellis, City-at-Large member; Michael Fitzgerald, Dingle, Ireland; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; Gary Maxwell, Alternate, Toba, Japan; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; Milan Mashanovitch, Alternate, Kotor, Montenegro; and Vivi Tziouvaras, Alternate, Patras, Greece.

Staff Representative: Linda Gunther
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Barbara Ellis, seconded by Joe Cantrell, and carried, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, September 4, 2013, were approved as written.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Staff representative Linda Gunther announced that all Board members and alternates need to read the guidelines and sign the acknowledgement of receipt of guidelines; these will be filed with the City Clerk's Office.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2013:** The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **ANNUAL 9-11 CONCERT – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013:** The concert attendees all agreed that it was very well attended and an excellent concert; the Faulkner Gallery was filled and everyone enjoyed it immensely.
9. **ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013:** This annual event was well attended; all of the sister city committees had representatives at the event. The potluck food was very good and the entertainment by the Weihai group was excellent. The cost of the entertainment was \$200; a motion was made by Barbara Ellis, seconded by Joe Cantrell, and approved unanimously to pay the group for the entertainment from the money raised at the event by the selling of the raffle tickets that were for the gifts donated by each of the Sister City Committees.
10. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – George Lilly:** This has been completed and the Kotor Sister City Committee interview is now airing on Channel 18. The next Sister City Committee scheduled is Weihai, China.

11. **NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS FROM ALL COMMITTEE BOARDS:**
Two dates that the Board agreed on are: Friday, January 17, OR Friday, January 24, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Barbara Ellis will find a location to hold the get together and then contact all Board members with the date.
12. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL REPORT – Pat Fallin:** No report made.
13. **LIBRARY EXHIBIT CASE – MONTH OF OCTOBER:** Beautiful exhibit; well done. It was decided to ask the Library to have it again next year.
14. **2014 YOUNG ARTISTS & AUTHORS SHOWCASE – Gil Garcia:** No report made
15. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**
Dingle, Ireland: Michael Fitzgerald reported that this committee is celebrating the holidays with a dinner at the La Arcada Bistro on Wednesday, December 11, and all Board members are invited to attend; the cost is \$25.00. There will be an Irish menu as well as entertainment. The Dingle Sister City Committee is blossoming and continuing to get new members.
Kotor, Montenegro: Milan Mashanovitch reported that Kotor has two graduates from the Culinary School now working at a hotel in Beverly Hills. Their plans for 2014 are to have a concert in February at the Music Academy of the West and will be bringing folks from Kotor. In March an invitation by the Mayor of Kotor and the water polo club has been extended to the Santa Barbara water polo club to go to Kotor to have a match. The Mayor of Kotor is retiring this year and the Sister City Committee is going to be giving a sculpture to Kotor in honor of her retirement. Milan stated that when the San Juan Sister City Committee raises money to give to the victims of the typhoon the Kotor Sister City Committee will match whatever is given by another Sister City Committee up to \$1,000.
Patras, Greece: Vivi Tziouvaras reported that their Sister City Committee is meeting on December 12; there has been more interest and they have had more people join this sister city committee.
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: No representative attended; however, Barbara Ellis gave the following report on their behalf. Sixty people from the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee are now in Puerto Vallarta for their annual trip. A dinner was held and \$870 was raised for training of Puerto Vallarta Police Officers. Six artists came from Santa Barbara and are at the I.Madonnari Festival in Puerto Vallarta. MarBorg has donated a garbage truck to give to Puerto Vallarta as well.
San Juan, Philippines: Jaime Sodusta reported that he is working on raising money for the victims of the typhoon. He has been in touch with Direct Relief International and

will let the Board know the best way to handle money being sent to this devastated area. Jaime thanked the Kotor Sister City Committee for offering to match up to \$1,000 from a Sister City Committee donation for the victims of the typhoon. There will be a Thanksgiving event at the FCA on November 23, 2013, that is being coordinated by the San Juan Sister City Committee.

Toba, Japan: Gary Maxwell reported that the Toba Sister City Committee will be having a Holiday potluck gathering for the Board members prior to the meeting on the second Monday in December. On January 26, a film "Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard" will be shown at the Unitarian Society. On Sunday, February 9 there will be a New Year's event at the Chase Palm Park Recreation Center – more information will be given later on.

Weihai, China: Joe Cantrell reported that the actual Chinese New Year is on January 31, 2014, this year; but the Weihai Sister City Committee will be celebrating the Chinese New Year in February. A Girl Scout Shin Tow relationship has been growing in Weihai. There has been some new member interest – the Board members have been meeting regularly.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary