

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting, May 3, 2006

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson, Takako Wakita at 12:00 Noon. Members present were: Takako Wakita, Vice Chairperson; Janet Baker, Recording Secretary; Gary Maxwell, Toba, Japan; Jeremy Hass, San Juan, Philippines; Gerald Corrigan, Dingle, Ireland; and David Gorbet, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Guests: Linda Gunther, City Administration Staff.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the minutes of the March 1st and Special Meeting, March 15, 2006 were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jeremy Hass announced that Dr. Alex Tang may be resigning from the San Juan, Philippines Sister City and their status is up in the air at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH CITY COUNCIL ARISING FROM MARCH 15TH MEETING: Linda Gunther reported the letters had been sent to City Council.

CITY COUNCIL RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEERS: Takako expressed thanks to Linda Gunther for arranging the nice reception for the Distinguished Volunteers which was held after their presentation to City Council. She was disappointed that did not get any publicity in Newspaper or TV.

SCI ANNUAL CONFERENCE, JULY 13 - 15, 2006: Takako Wakita will be attending to represent the Sister Cities Board.

SELECTION OF YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE YOUTH SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, D. C.: Two students from the Youth Council have been selected; Christina Gonzales and Laura Spracher to attend the Youth Summit. Mayor Blum and Roger Horton have donated \$300.00 each from their travel expenses to the students to help pay for their trip. Takako suggested that the students be invited to Sister Cities meetings after their return to tell of their experience.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ARTIST BY PUERTO VALLARTA AWARD PROGRAM: David Gorbet reported that about 17 students from Santa Barbara High Schools displayed their paintings at a reception on April 19th held at the First Commerce Bank and the winner was awarded a \$500.00 savings bond by the Bank and she will be going to SCI Conference where her painting will be submitted for National Contest. Aldo's Restaurant provided the food for the reception which was enjoyed by all who attended.

UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION, OCTOBER 26TH (1) COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAM (2) DINNER AND PROGRAM: At the March meeting it was suggested that a Summit meeting be held from 1-4 p.m. prior to the U.N.

Dinner as a Community Awareness program. It was suggested that the discussion on this subject be postponed until the July meeting and ask that Gil Garcia attend to explain the program.

SCI WHEELCHAIR PROGRAM FOR CHINA: After due discussion on a motion duly made, seconded and carried it was moved that the Sister Cities Board not participate in this program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

San Juan, Philippines: Jeremy Hass, alternate for Dr. Tang, reported that Dr. Tang may be resigning from the Sister City group and the status of the group is up in the air at this time.

Toba, Japan: Gary Maxwell reported a delegation from Toba, Japan will be arriving in Santa Barbara on May 28th for a 3 day visit and he invited the other Sister Cities to participate in the activities they have planned for the visitors. A schedule of events were given to each representative. Gary also reported that four students have been selected for the Student Exchange program and will be going to Toba in August.

Dingle, Ireland: Gerald Corrigan reported that the tree planting ceremony on March 17th was well attended and also the St. Patricks party at Harry's that night. Both Mayor Blum and Roger Horton attended both events. He announced that Carey Rogers is the new President for the Dingle group. Also, a group of 29 members will be going to Dingle the first week of May for annual visit.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: David Gorbet reported their Board had voted not to display the painting at the Cancer Research Center. The Annual Strawberry Social will be held on June 11th at the home of Craig and Marcia Nielson and he invited all to attend. He also reported that the group is gearing up for the annual visitation of the group from Puerto Vallarta who will be arriving on July 27th for a 10 day stay. Many activities are being planned for them during their stay starting with the El Fandango on Saturday, July 29th at the Elks Club which is open to the public.

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Baker, Recording Secretary