

## **Minutes of the March 7, 2007 Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting**

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Gerald Corrigan at 12:00 noon. The Chair asked the Secretary to call the Roll. Members attending were: Gerald Corrigan - Chairperson, Takako Wakita - Vice Chairperson, Janet Baker, Recording Secretary, Carey Rogers - Dingle, Ireland, David Gorbet - Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Peter Haslund - Weihai, China, Mark Hamilton - Toba, Japan and Roger Horton - City Council Liaison. Guests: Linda Gunther, City Administrator; Jan Olivas, Puerto Vallarta Sister City President; Marti and Gil Garcia, Puerto Vallarta Sister City Board; Helene Schneider, City Council Member; and Nancy Romero, Business First Bank.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the Minutes of the January 3, 2007 were approved as corrected. Proposed Guidelines for Continuing as a Sister City read para. 6 and 7 to be deleted. Corrected to read changes in wording of para. 6 and 7. Weihai, China report should read a Memorial Internship was established, not Scholarship.

The Chair asked to add another item to the Agenda re: SCI request. He also requested that Item 9 on the Agenda be taken next as Dr. Haslund has to leave early. Dr. Haslund was asked to report at this meeting on the Weihai Student/Faculty Exchange which needed clarification as to what if anything he was asking the Board's participation in this program. Dr. Haslund explained that he had developed this program a couple years ago taking teachers from Santa Barbara to Weihai to place them in a teaching situation to instruct teachers in Weihai school English. The Weihai faculty have been teaching reading and writing in English but not language. He hopes to replicate that this year also including High School students from Santa Barbara who would live with a Chinese family that speaks English. He would like the students from China to be made to feel special when they come here with an event to honor them. Takako explained to him that both Toba and Puerto Vallarta have Student Exchange programs which they are responsible for their own programs and the Sister City Board is not involved. Dr. Haslund was also concerned about insurance as China's insurance does not cover outside of China. Mr. Garcia suggested that he contact SCI about coverage. Jan Olivas also recommended the agent they use for their Student Exchange and she also referred him to Roseann Crawford who successfully chaired the Exchange program for Puerto Vallarta.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Nancy Romero of Business First Bank was asked to speak regarding the Young Artist Showcase which the Bank is sponsoring again this year. Nancy said that a reception will be held at the Bank on April 16th at 5:30 p.m. to display the entries from students from Santa Barbara and Dos Pueblos High Schools. This entries will be judged and the winner will receive a \$500.00 Savings Bond and their art will be sent to the SCI Convention for final competition. She distributed flyers regarding the Artist Showcase and entry forms and extended invitations to attend the reception.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:** Gerald distributed copies to Board members of a schedule of events for the Sister Cities Board which covered from this meeting until January 2008. It was reviewed for any corrections or additions.

**GUIDELINES FOR CONTINUING AS A SISTER CITY OF SANTA BARBARA:**  
A draft of these Guidelines was discussed at January meeting and suggested changes were made and copies of Draft #2 were distributed. After due discussion, on a motion duly made and seconded it was moved to accept Draft #2.

**NEW BROCHURES FOR SISTER CITIES:** The present Brochure has not been updated in over 4 years and since then three Sister Cities have been dropped and a new one added. Gerald would like to see the Sister Cities getting more publicity and awareness in the Community and thinks the Brochure would be one way of promoting this awareness. It was suggested that each Sister City have an insert in the brochure and that way it would be easier and less expensive to make changes without having to do the whole brochure over. After due discussion on a motion duly made, seconded and carried it was moved to prepare a new brochure.

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

**Dingle, Ireland:** Carey Rogers reported that six people from Dingle, Ireland will be visiting Santa Barbara next week and they plan to take over Dargan's on March 14th. The Foggy Dew group will be playing and a musician from Dingle will be joining them. She extended an invitation to the Board to attend. Also, the visitors will be honored with a reception at City Hall at 1:30 on March 13th prior to the City Council meeting and then they will attend the City Council meeting and be recognized. The Dingle Sister City will be having their annual St. Patrick's party at Harry's on March 17th and welcomed the Board to attend. Carey reported that Erin Graffy will be the alternate for the Dingle Sister City on this Board. Carey reported the trip to Dingle this year will be April 29 - May 6th but will be an on your own trip as Erin will not be guiding this year. Anyone interested in going can contact Erin for information.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** David Gorbet reported that the students from Santa Barbara will be going to Puerto Vallarta on March 28 - April 6th for the Student Exchange. The Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee will be participating in the Cinco de Mayo celebration in Delaguera Plaza May 5 & 6th as a fund raising project. Also, the annual Strawberry Festival will be held at the home of Jan & Richard Olivas on June 10th.

**Toba, Japan:** Mark Hamilton reported the Toba Sister City is sponsoring a trip to Japan September 23 - October 1st, a nine day trip which will include Tokyo, Kyoto

and Toba as well as other sights. It is open to other Sister Cities of Santa Barbara and he circulated flyers giving details for the trip. Takako announced that a Japanese Cooking Demonstration will be held at her house on April 3rd at 2:00 p.m. as a fund raiser for the group. Takako also reported their New Year's Eve party was held on February 10th with 65 people attending.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. Gerald thanked Linda Gunther for the providing the lovely lunch for the Board prior to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Baker, Recording Secretary