

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, July 6, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Takako Wakita called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, chair; Bea Molina, City-at-Large member; Margaret Saavedra, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Albe Dumlao, San Juan, Philippines; Elliesia Bollinger, Alternate, Weihai, China; and George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro.

Other attendees: Jaimie Sodusta, Alternate, San Juan, Philippines; Jim Brock, Alternate, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Chris Compogiannis, Patras, Greece, Committee member; Linda Gunther, Staff Representative; Pat Fallin, SCI Representative.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING ON NOVEMBER 4, 2016:** On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - An announcement was made that Sister Cities International gave the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee an award for their overall program of best for cities with a population of 50,000 – 100,000. This award will be presented at the 60th SCI Conference.
 - Marti Correa de Garcia's father died; a sympathy card was sent around for everyone to sign to be mailed to Marti to give her our condolences.
 - There will be a "Revolutionary Conversations" Conference put on by the United Nations Santa Barbara Chapter, on Friday, July 22, 2016.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
6. **REVIEW OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2016:** The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin, Sister Cities International Representative, announced that next week will be the SCI 60th Annual Conference. There will be more to report at the next meeting.
8. **SCI BALLOTS FOR SCI CONFERENCE IN JULY:** A motion was made by Elliesia Bollinger and seconded by Bea Molina that the four attendees: Takako Wakita, Marti Correa de Garcia, Margaret Saavedra, and Gil Garcia; be nominated to cast the City of Santa Barbara's four votes at the SCI Conference in July; this motion was unanimously approved.
9. **SCI SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING:** Pat Fallin announced that SCI signed an MOU with Kiwanis Clubs for youth activities. Gil Garcia approved the Kiwanis Club here and they would like to make a connection with all the Santa Barbara Sister City Committees. The SoCal regular meeting will be held on August 27, 2016, and will be from 10 am to 2 pm and will be held in Ventura. Local programs will make presentations in the morning. MarBorg Industries donated \$1,500 to sponsor this meeting. SoCal would like presentations from other Sister Cities. The cost is \$15 for lunch. SoCal is from San Louis Obispo to the Mexican Border and east to Arizona. We hope everyone from this Board will attend.
10. **ANNUAL REPORT:** All reports are in except from Weihai, China; as soon as that report is received the Annual Report will be sent to the Mayor and Council and placed on our website.

11. **9-11 CONCERT - Takako Wakita:** The 9-11 annual concert will be held on Sunday, September 11, 2016, at 3 pm in the Faulkner Gallery of the Central Library. We have musicians lined up as well as the Teen Star and the Unitarian Society Choir. Please be sure to send this information to all your committees and come to the concert. In the past, we have paid for some but not other artists; and last year we paid Showstoppers and Youth Ensemble \$100. A suggestion for this year is to pay for this year's performers a stipend of no more than \$150 with money from the raffle. Bea Molina made a motion that we pay \$150 each to the performers and not more than \$450 total. George Lilly seconded and it was unanimously approved. Bea Molina and Linda Gunther have volunteered to stand at the door to pass out programs. Flyers will be sent out. No donations will be collected and no refreshments served.
12. **UNITED NATIONS DINNER - Takako Wakita:** The Annual United Nations dinner will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 6 pm at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion. Toba will be celebrating their 50th anniversary and, therefore, the focus will be on Toba. The entertainment will be the Japanese dancers from Toba and the Junior Spirit and Senior Spirit of Fiesta; Margaret will be asking Marti to ask the Junior Spirit. Takako will have someone assisting in the kitchen and will be handing out more information at the next meeting.
13. **LIBRARY DISPLAY - Takako Wakita:** The Library Display at the Central Library will be for the month of September, 2016. All seven Sister City Committees must bring their items for display on Wednesday, August 31, 2016, at 6 pm. Bea Molina and Linda Gunther will be there at 5:30 pm - we only have one hour to arrange the display so please be on time.
14. **UNITY SHOPPE DONATION - Takako Wakita:** When Raul Navarro was on the Board, he proposed an idea to help our community by giving a donation to the Unity Shoppe. It is for the Christmas Fund in December. The idea of this donation is to be announced on TV and it is good for the Sister Cities Board's exposure. He suggested that each Sister City Committee give a donation of \$50 or \$100 from each committee; however, the Board proposed \$100 from each Committee and the Board would contribute \$100, then it would be a donation of \$800. Each Committee representative was advised to go to their respective committees to ask if they could contribute \$100 and this will be on next month's agenda.
15. **PARTICIPATION IN THE KEYT 3 PROGRAM "WHAT IS RIGHT IN SANTA BARBARA":** Takako reported that she tried to meet with John Palminteri but he is extremely busy. Takako will meet with Mr. Palminteri and report to the Board on whether or not the Sister Cities can be part of his program.
16. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 - Jamie Sodusta:** They are still working on this project.
17. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

Dingle, Ireland: No representative nor alternate attend; no report was made.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly reported that they had three groups from Water Polo in Santa Barbara go to Kotor. The Kotor team was then invited to come here. Montenegro is a very poor country; therefore, the Committee had to chip in and help subsidize their trip. Their Coach is the most decorated coach in Montenegro. Everyone did a lot of swimming. Each person stayed with a host family. They had a great time with water polo, swimming, and competition. There was also

great coverage on KEYT. They are here every other year. We received help from the Dingle Sister City Committee, and were able to host a luncheon at Willy Quinn's restaurant and also rented a home from Willy Quinn. We received good press from Montenegro; they are very cooperative and fundraising was helped by the Prime Minister of the country. Another major project we are working on is the culinary school. The students attended a three week course., which helped them to get an entry level job in the kitchens of restaurants and most are hearing impaired.

Patras, Greece: Due to the absence of both the representative and the alternate, Chris Compojiannis, a member of the committee, gave a report. The Committee is working on their student exchange with Dos Pueblos High School and a high school in Patras; it is in the planning stages, using Skype. So far there are two students in Dos Pueblos that are in the exchange. They are also working on their Annual Greek Festival to be held at the end of July at Oak Park.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Margaret Saavedra thanked Marti Correa de Garcia for writing their portion of the Annual Report; they are planning a trip to Puerto Vallarta and also working on the agenda for the Puerto Vallarta visit later in July. Margaret also was very pleased that they won the award for their overall program of best for cities with a population of 50,000 – 100,000 from Sister Cities International.

San Juan, Philippines: Albe Dumiao reported they had a celebration at the Elks Club on June 25. About 80 people attended; it was a good turnout.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported that there was a successful Bonsai Festival at the Botanic Gardens. Diana Vandervoort made temari balls. A tea ceremony was held. It was a lot of fun. The Toba students will be from July 29 through August 8, 2016. On July 31, there will be a Welcome Pool Party. The Santa Barbara students go to Toba on August 10 and return on August 20, 2016. The fiftieth celebration of our Sister City association will be held on October 18, 19, 20 and 21. A delegation will come on October 18, 2016, from Toba and everyone is welcome to come to our events. An official flyer will be sent to everyone as we finalize the details.

Weihai, China: Elliesa Bollinger, Alternate, reported that they have been meeting regularly this past year. Peter Haslund started this Sister City Committee with the student exchange through the college and most were teachers. Many on the Committee's board are still teachers and cannot attend the Sister Cities Board meetings. They are regrouping now. They did have a celebration of the Chinese New Years with 42 people in attendance. This year they invited the Chinese embassy ambassadors who could not come. Dos Pueblos High School sent ten young people for the dinner. Eliesa is the advisor to that group.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Gunther, Staff Representative