



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board for January 12, 2011 (Special Meeting)

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Takako Wakita at Noon. The Secretary was asked to call the roll.

The following members were in attendance: Takako Wakita, Chairperson; Wayne Hewitt, Vice Chairperson; Janet Baker, Recording Secretary; Carey Rogers, Dingle, Ireland (Alt.); David Gorbet, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Dean Gastouniotis, Patras, Greece. No representative was present from San Juan, Phillipines. Also attending were Linda Gunther, Staff Representative and Guest, Barbara Ellis, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Alt.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the minutes of the November 3, 2010 meeting were approved as corrected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Linda Gunther announced that Takako Wakita had been approved by the the City Coucil to serve another four year term on the Sister Cities Board. Takako reminded the Representatives about the Main Library display case for the month of March and to please bring their items to the Library on March 1st to set up the display. She also reminded them that we now have seven Sister Cities and be aware of the space so that all will have room. Takako reported that she had asked Wayne to check out some children's chorus or musical groups to possibly perform at the 9-11 Concert. Wayne said that he had checked out one Chorus group and two musical groups (bands), more information will be given at the March meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

REVIEW OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2011: The following events were added: Feb.9th -Weihai Chinese New Year Celebration Dinner, April 14th - Puerto Vallarta Showcase of Young Artists; May 26-31 Visitation to Dingle, Ireland; May 30 - I Modanari artist from Puerto Vallarta to perform at Old Mission; June - Puerto Vallarta Strawberry Festival.

STATUS OF SAN JUAN, PHILLIPINES SISTER CITY: Takako reported that both she and Linda Gunther have written to their President regarding their status and have received no reply. Takako did receive an E-Mail from Jonas DeLeon requesting that the Board postpone their decision until the March meeting which time a representative would attend. After due discussion, on a motion duly made, seconded and carried it was moved that the San Juan committee be notified that if no one attends the March meeting with a plan for their re-activation, action will be taken to dissolve the San Juan, Phillipines Sister City.

ESTABLISHING SISTER CITY CORNER IN THE MAIN LIBRARY: Joe Cantrell reported that this proposal is a logistic problem for the Library. They are afraid if they approve this request that it would open the door for other organizations wanting to do the same. Joe suggested that since we have the Display Case at the Main Library for the month of March that he ask them if it is possible to use the special shelf next to the Check Out desk to display any books just for the month of March. After due discussion, on a motion duly made, seconded and carried it was moved that Joe should check into the possibility of displaying the books for the month of March. After due discussion on a motion duly, made, seconded and carried it was moved to drop the idea of a permanent corner at the Library.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Weihai, China - Joe Cantrell reported the Chinese New Year Celebration dinner will be held at the China Pavilion on February 9th and extended an invitation for everyone to attend. Joe also reported that there will be about twenty 14 year old students from Weihai coming to Santa Barbara in August and they are going to need host families, they may need to ask for help from other Sister Cities to be host families.

Dingle, Ireland: Carey Rogers reported they are having a membership meeting at Mulligan's on February 1st. Plans are being made for a visitation to Dingle on May 26 - 31st this year. Carey also said they have renewed their non-profit status.

Patras, Greece: Dean reported that as Mariella Stockmal is working full time now and can not attend the Board meetings, that he will be the Representative. A letter from Theony Condos, the President of Patras stating that due to the socio-economic situation in Europe and especially Greece, the Patras delegation is debating on whether a trip to Santa Barbara this year would be politically correct. The Santa Barbara group is awaiting their decision as to whether a delegation from Santa Barbara to Patras this Spring would be wise. She said they had not pursued a big marketing campaign to increase membership until they are sure that things will move forward as planned. The group is still working with two universities on projects.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: David Gorbet reported that the group had a successful Christmas party at the home of Art and Barbara Najera, this is the first Christmas party in quite a few years since we are usually in Puerto Vallarta in December. He said the meeting on January 5th slides were shown of the visitation to Puerto Vallarta in November and also Evie Treen gave a report on the Law Enforcement Exchange and gave a status report on the decompression chamber which is located at the Naval Base.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported the Japanese New Year celebration will be held on January 27th. A bus trip for members only is planned for March 12th for Kabuki and Japanese dance performances. The Sister City is starting to plan for the Student Exchange in August.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly reported that a member, Valerie Harrison, had visited Kotor in November and presented a check for \$1,000.00 to Mayor Catovic and Borislav Kuscilan, the Director of the Institute for Children with Disabilities, in appreciation of the use of their facilities for the Culinary Academy. George also told of their plans for this year to send 12 young people to Kotor to perform at the Children's Performing Arts Festival. To host a water polo camp at UCSB. Establish a program in Kotor to educate low income women to become self sufficient economically. Establish a relationship between UCSB's Marine Studies Department and the Institute of Marine Biology in Kotor.

San Juan , Phillipines: No report made.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 P.M.