



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board for May 4, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Takako Wakita at 12:00 Noon. The Chair asked the Secretary to call the Roll. Members attending were: Takako Wakita, Chairperson; Wayne Hewitt, Vice Chairperson; Janet Baker, Recording Secretary; Marianne Freeman, Dingle, Ireland; David Gorbet and Gil Garcia, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Jaime Sodusta and Jemmi Irabon, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; Milan Mashanovich, Kotor, Montenegro; Theony Condos, Patras, Greece. Linda Gunther, Staff Representative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the minutes of the March 2, 2011 were approved as corrected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Gil Garcia gave a brief report on the SCI Conference he attended in Arlington, Va. March 3-5th. Takako reported that the Fund Raiser for the Toba Tsunami Disaster held at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center, and attended by over 200 people, was a great success with donations of over \$40,000. Food and entertainment for the event were all donated by local businesses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

REVIEW OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2011: The following changes and/or additions were made: May 26-31 Trip to Dingle - Cancelled; May 15 - San Juan's Children's Concert Tour in Pomona, Ca.; May 23 - Students from Kotor to attend Culinary Arts School; July 12 - Students to Kotor to perform at the Children's International Theatre Festival; Aug. 6-19th - 20 students from Weihai to visit Santa Barbara; and Nov. 8th - annual visitation to Puerto Vallarta.

9-11 CONCERT: Takako reported that she had been notified that the Santa Barbara Choral Society is planning a 9-11 Concert presenting the Mozart Requiem at the Granada Theatre. Takako asked for comments as to whether we should be a co-sponsor to this event instead of doing our own as we have in the past. After some discussion, on a motion duly made, seconded and carried it was moved that Takako be authorized to negotiate our share of the expenses not to exceed \$500 to co-sponsor this event. If this offer is not accepted we will have our own event on September 10th.

UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION: This event is scheduled for October 20, 2011 at the Cabrillo Arts Center Pavilion and Takako asked that the Reps ask their Boards if they would take over being in charge of this event as the Toba group did last year due to the delegation from Toba attending.

RE-ESTABLISHING SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH YALTA, UKRAINE:

Takako reported that Jim Armstrong, City Administrator was approached by the Ambassador from the Ukraine at a meeting in San Francisco. The Ambassador said that the Mayor of Yalta had asked him to find out if it would be possible to re-establish Yalta as a Sister City. Takako said that she explained to Mr. Armstrong that Yalta was officially dropped as a Sister City in 2006 and that since then new Guidelines for establishing a Sister City have been made and she referred Mr. Armstrong to those Guidelines to answer the Ambassador's question.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM AT MAIN LIBRARY: Takako said she would follow up on this request and get more information.

PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY TV (Channel 17): Joe Cantrell reported that he had been unable to find anyone who would put this together for us for free and he suggested that the groups continue to video their events until they can find someone to take over the project without charge.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Patras, Greece: Theony Condos reported that Greece is experiencing severe economic problems, also the Mayor and City Council have changed and the new Mayor seems to be enthusiastic about the Sister City program and things are slowly getting back on track. She invited everyone to attend the Greek Festival at Oak Park on July 30-31st.

Dingle, Ireland: Marianne Freeman reported that the trip to Dingle originally scheduled for May has been cancelled due to increase in airfare, may try again next year. The group is not very active at this time and having a hard time getting reorganized.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: David Gorbet reported that the new officers and Board of Directors will be installed at the meeting tonight. Also, they will be honoring a member for contributions to the group over the years. He said the student exchange to Puerto Vallarta has been cancelled due to the problems in Mexico at this time, even though Puerto Vallarta has not been affected. They are considering a Youth Football team exchange. All projects are still going strong i.e. the Law Enforcement, I Madonari artists exchange. Annual Strawberry Festival is scheduled for June 11th at home of Najera's.

Weihai, China: Joe Cantrell reported that they are bringing 20 14 year-old students to Santa Barbara this summer. They will be taking half-day classes in English at Santa Barbara High School and seeing points of interest in the afternoon. They are in need of host families for these students. They are hoping to make this a yearly event.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaime Sodusta reported they had a meeting on March 18th to get re-organized and installed new officers. The San Juan Children's Concert on May 15th in Pomona was attended by a big group from Santa Barbara. The group is collecting children's books to be sent to San Juan. Jaime said they now have 40 paid members.

Kotor, Montenegro: Milan Mashanovitch reported they are sending 10 children to Kotor in July to perform at the Children's International Theatre Festival. Students will be coming to Santa Barbara in June to attend the Culinary Arts School at City College. A member of the Santa Barbara Kotor Sister City is in Kotor to organize women in Kotor to make crafts to sell to the tourists. The Water Polo coach from Dos Pueblos High School is going to Kotor.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported that she also attended the SCI Conference in Virginia in March. She said that she learned there are 200 Japanese Sister Cities in the U.S. She also said that the Fund Raiser for the Toba Tsunami was a great success. In June the group is planning a trip for members to the Japanese Cultural Center in Los Angeles. The Toba Sister City Group is working on the Student Exchange for July and August.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Baker, Recording Secretary