



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of May 2, 2012

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

Members attending were: Chairperson, Takako Wakita; Vice Chairperson, Wayne Hewitt; Recording Secretary, Janet Baker; Jan Olivas, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Carey Rogers, Dingle, Ireland; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Gunther, Staff Representative.

Members absent were: Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China and Dean Gastouniotis, Patras, Greece. Guests: Gil and Marti Garcia; Blas Garza, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; and Michael Fitzgerald, Dingle, Ireland.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the minutes of the March 7, 2012 were approved as corrected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Takako Wakita reported that she will be going to Kiev, Ukraine on May 15th and will be getting together with Katrina, the coordinator of the group from Kiev that visited Santa Barbara during the Open World Program in March.

Takako announced that Gil Garcia is running for the SCI Board and he and his wife Marti will be attending the SCI Conference in Florida in July.

Jan Olivas, representative from the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee, reported that the Committee has received the award from SCI for Premier Sister City relationship with Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Linda Gunther suggested that Blas Garza should present it to the Mayor for display in the new Sister Cities display room.

Takako reported that she had received an E-Mail from Elizabeth Delgado regarding establishing a Sister City in Spain. Takako sent her the Guidelines for establishing a Sister City.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REVIEW OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2012: Jan Olivas reported they did not have the Artist Showcase on April 15 through 20 but artwork was sent to SCI. Corrections to the June calendar for Kotor - the Youth Water Polo Team will be going to Kotor on June 4th and the Women's Economic Development Program will be in Kotor on June 26th. The Philippines/American Friendship Dinner/Dance will be on June 23rd. The July Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board will be on July 11th instead of the 4th which is a Holiday.

9-II CONCERT: The 9-II Concert this year will be held at the Faulkner Gallery at the Central Library on Sunday, September 9th from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M.. The Gallery is reserved from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. for set up and clean up. Discussion was held as to having a reception prior to the Concert and also a possible program. Further discussion will be held at the July meeting. On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the motion was made to budget \$450.00 to pay for entertainment and for set up of the Gallery.

UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION ON OCTOBER 25, 2012: Takako asked the representatives to be thinking about entertainment for this event and further discussion will be held at the July 11th meeting.

AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING A NEW SISTER CITY: Takako asked if the representatives had any ideas regarding the proposed changes, mainly to the last three items. Several suggestions were made, but no decision was made so Takako asked the representatives take back to their Boards for further discussion and it will be on the Agenda for the July meeting. George Lilly and Linda Mathews have agreed to work on this and bring back a proposal to the guidelines.

SANTA BARBARA SISTER CITIES PRESENCE AT THE SANTA BARBARA AIRPORT TERMINAL: Gil Garcia reported that the Committee had met with Mrs. Ramsdell and her Assistant Hazel Johns. Gil presented a copy of a beautiful map of the world depicting the location of all of the Sister Cities of Santa Barbara which will be displayed at the top of the escalator leading to the Security pre-boarding room. Gil said the cost for this painting would be \$2,500.00 and Mrs. Ramsdell said the Airport would contribute \$1,000 from their budget for the display. Gil said the artist is ready to proceed with the project as soon as the money is collected. After due discussion on a motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was moved that each Sister City Committee contribute \$210.00 and the check should be sent to Linda Gunther by May 31st or let her know if they are not going to be able to contribute.

OPEN WORLD PROGRAM: Gil Garcia reported that the meeting held at Westmont College on March 16 - 24th was very successful and the representatives from the Ukraine gave impressive reports of their visit to Santa Barbara.

PROPOSED SISTER CITY ROOM AT CITY HALL: George Lilly asked the Board to accompany him to the Mayor's outer office so he could present his proposal for the Sister City room in the outer office to the Mayor's office. He said he had received the Mayor's approval for this project. He circulated copies of the diagram of the room and pictures of the furniture. George said that the estimated cost for the conversion and the furniture would be approximately \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00. He said that Kotor Sister City would match any funds raised up to \$6,000.00. Further discussion will be held at July meeting.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY TV (Channel 18): Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan, reported she had an interesting interview with the Channel 18 Staff member. Linda Gunther said the interview will be on TV on May 3rd at 6:00 P.M. on Inside Santa Barbara or can be seen on a computer next week. The next Sister City to be featured on Channel 18 will be Puerto Vallarta. Linda Gunther said she would set up an appointment for them to go to Channel 18 staff for the interview that will be televised.

NETWORKING GET TOGETHER WITH BOARD MEMBERS FROM ALL THE COMMITTEES: No report was made; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China, is handling this project and was not present.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: (Limit 3 minutes each):

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly reported the Santa Barbara Youth Polo Team will go to Kotor on June 25th for a competition. The Women's Economic Development program will be held in Kotor on June 25th.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Jan Olivas reported their meeting tonight at the Elks Club will be in celebration of the beginning of their 40th year as a Sister City and will be honoring Past Presidents. They are expecting 108 attendees for the event. The Annual Strawberry Social will be held on June 24th at the home of Art and Barbara Najera from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. The El Fandango will be at the El Paseo on Sunday afternoon on July 22nd. Jan introduced Blas Garza who will be installed as the new President of the Sister City tonight along with the new Board members.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported they have a bus trip planned for the June 2nd trip to the newly renovated Japanese Gardens at the Huntington Gardens in Pasadena. The group will have a private docent tour, the cost is \$55.00 for members and \$65.00 for non members. The reservation deadline is May 22nd.

Dingle, Ireland: Carey Rogers said she had nothing to report.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaime Sodusta reported that the Friendship Dinner/Dance will be held on June 23rd, and everyone is welcome.

Weihai, China: No representative was present and no report was made.

Patras, Greece: No representative was present and no report was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Janet Baker, Recording Secretary