



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of September 5, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Takako Wakita at noon and the Secretary was asked to call the Roll. Members present: Takako Wakita, Chairperson; Wayne Hewitt, Vice Chairperson; Janet Baker, Recording Secretary; Michael Fitzgerald, Dingle, Ireland; Blas Garza, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; Milan Mashanovitch, Kotor, Montenegro, Alternate; Georgia Gastouniotia, Patras, Greece; Frank Hotchkiss, City Councilmember Liaison; Linda Gunther, Staff Representative. Guests: Gil Garcia and Marti Correa Garcia, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Rory Moore, Toba, Japan; and Coro Airtes, San Juan, Philippines.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, the minutes of the Special Meeting held on June 27, 2012 were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Linda Gunther announced that the terms for two of the appointed members of the Sister Cities Board will end in December and if anyone is interested in applying, the interviews will be taking place in November. Takako Wakita announced that Gil Garcia has been elected to the Sister Cities International (SCI) Board, also Patras, Greece is now in the SCI directory. Takako Wakita announced that she has reserved the display case at the Central Library for the month of April. If anyone is interested in receiving the SCI Newsletter notify either Gil Garcia or Linda Gunther. The SCI Mid-western Conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 5th and 6th; if anyone is interested in going, contact either Takako Wakita or Gil Garcia. Pat Fallin is the State Coordinator for SCI and would like to help Sister Cities that are needing help getting organized.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: The Calendar was reviewed and the only correction was the date for the November Sister Cities Board Meeting; it will be held on Wednesday, November 7th.

FINAL APPROVAL OF DESIGN FOR SISTER CITIES MAP AT THE AIRPORT TERMINAL: Linda Gunther reported that the Committee had met with the Airport Director and the design #2 was approved. After due discussion on a motion duly made, seconded, and carried it was moved that design #2 for the map showing the Sister Cities of Santa Barbara at the Santa Barbara Airport Terminal be approved.

PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18: No report was made.

9-11 CONCERT SEPTEMBER 9, 2012: The concert will be held at the Faulkner Gallery at the Central Library on Sunday, September 9, 2012, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. It was decided to serve cookies and sodas and Marianne Freeman has volunteered to be in charge of the reception. Takako Wakita asked for volunteers to be at the door to pass out programs; Janet Baker and Marti Correa Garcia volunteered. It was decided not to have a donation basket this year.

UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATION AT CABRILLO ARTS PAVILION, OCTOBER 25, 2012: Takako Wakita reviewed the list of tasks for each of the Sister Cities Committees. Takako asked for the names of the contact people with their phone numbers for the flyer from each Committee. A discussion was held on possible entertainment, some suggestions were a children's dance group from Patras, Greece's Sister City Committee and the Rosemarie Cruz Spanish dancers. Takako asked for suggestions for an Emcee as Mark Hamilton who normally is the Emcee will not be in town. Takako will make a flyer and send it to each Sister City Committee representative for them to make copies and distribute to their members.

AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING A NEW SISTER CITY: Linda Gunther distributed copies of the Revised Guidelines with the suggested changes highlighted. After due discussion on a motion duly made, seconded and carried the Amendments to the Guidelines were approved with a change in the wording of #6 which now reads "the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board should be assured of the potential for a long-term mutually beneficial relationship with the proposed Sister City."

SISTER CITIES DISPLAY ROOM IN MAYOR'S OFFICE RECEPTION ROOM: Tabled until the November meeting.

NETWORKING GET TOGETHER: Discussion was held on possible places to hold this event which would be for the Boards from each Sister City Committee. No date has been set for this event as yet. It was decided to have it on either a Saturday or Sunday from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Further discussion will be held at the November meeting.

OPEN WORLD PROGRAM: Gil Garcia asked the Board to Sponsor this conference which will be held next year in Santa Barbara. This was tabled until the November meeting for further discussion.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Kotor, Montenegro: Milan Mashanovitch, Alternate, reported the Santa Barbara Youth Water Polo Team went to Kotor in June for training and a competition. Also, a delegation from Santa Barbara went to Kotor to attend the Women's Economic Development Conference in June.

Weihai, China: Joe Cantrell reported fifteen students, mainly from Weihai Middle Schools, came to Santa Barbara the first week of August and it was a successful exchange. In the past the exchanges have been with teachers.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaime Sodusta reported a Barbecue at Tucker's Grove is planned and he extended an invitation to the Board members to attend. He also invited them to come to the Philippine Meeting Room any Friday night for dancing, it is free and lots of fun.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotia reported this has been a very difficult two years due mainly to the economy in Patras and the illness and death of the former President of the Santa Barbara group, but Georgia said they now have a strong board and hope to get things re-activated soon. She said they are exploring different exchange programs. She said she has a letter from the former Mayor of Patras and is working to get a letter from the current Mayor of Patras acknowledging and supporting the Sister City program

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported they had a successful student exchange in July and August with students from Santa Barbara going to Toba in July and the students from Toba coming in August. A pool party was held at the home of Gary Maxwell for the students and host families.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Blas Garza reported the delegation from Puerto Vallarta arrived on July 19 for their annual visitation. The El Fandango was held at the El Paseo this year and was very successful. Blas said he has had a request from the Puerto Vallarta President for a vehicle similar to the Santa Barbara Easy Lift for transporting handicap individuals and Blas said this will be a new project for the Santa Barbara group for next year. The Santa Barbara group will be going to Puerto Vallarta on November 6th for their annual visitation. As this is the 40th anniversary for the founding of this Sister City there will be special events planned both in Puerto Vallarta and in Santa Barbara to celebrate.

Dingle, Ireland: Michael Fitzgerald who is acting President of the group said they are still trying to get re-organized.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Baker, Recording Secretary