



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



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

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Takako Wakita at 12:15 p.m.
- 2) **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, Chairperson; Michael Fitzgerald, Dingle, Ireland; Craig Neilson, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Substitute Alternate); Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; Gary Maxwell, Toba, Japan, Alternate; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Georgia Gastouniotia, Patras, Greece; Linda Gunther, Staff Representative.
- 3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, the minutes of the Meeting held on September 5, 2012, were approved, with the following two corrections: Under Attendees, Coro Airtees' name was misspelled, it should be Cora Airtees; and Under Toba, Japan, the minutes were corrected as follows: Linda Mathews reported they had a successful student exchange in July and August with students from Santa Barbara in Toba in August and the students from Toba came to Santa Barbara in July. A pool party on Sunday, July 29, was held at the home of Gary Maxwell for the students and host families and general members.
- 4) **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Takako Wakita, Chair, made the following announcements:
 - a) Sister Cities International (SCI) is holding a Presidential Inaugural Ball on Thursday, January 17, 2013, in Washington, D.C. and everyone is invited to attend. If you donate \$2,500 four people can attend and be recognized on the program; if you donate \$1,000 two people can attend and be recognized; and if you donate \$250 each there will be no recognition but you can attend.
 - b) Janet Baker and Wayne Hewitt's terms expire on December 31, 2012; this would have been their last meeting; however, neither was here so they have been invited to attend the next Board meeting, as guests so the Board can thank them for their service.
 - c) Dave Gorbet has been storing the flag poles (eight) for the sister cities and would like to remove them from his garage. If anyone else can store the flags, please contact Dave.
- 5) **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Nina Dunbar from the Botanic Gardens announced a new project, which will be a special raffle held on March 9, 2013, at the Orchid Show at Earl Warren Showgrounds, where the winner will be given a travel package to our sister city, Puerto Vallarta. Nina Dunbar will be working with the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee on this and they are hoping to have an award given in Puerto Vallarta by their Botanic Gardens, for a winner to come to Santa Barbara. An announcement will be made in mid-January with information on how to purchase the raffle tickets. If this is successful, the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens hope to get the other sister cities involved in a similar program.

6) REVIEW OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2012: The Calendar was reviewed and each Board member was encouraged to give the Chair new dates of activities for 2013 so they will be on it for the first Board meeting in 2013.

7) SISTER CITIES MAP AT THE AIRPORT TERMINAL: Due to the changes in the design requested from the Board, the designer has submitted his contract for an additional \$500 because of the changes. Therefore, before we can move on with the contract, we must find a way to raise these additional funds. Jaime Sodusta made a motion to ask each Committee for an additional \$70, it was seconded by George Lilly. A discussion was held before the vote; it was approved unanimously by the Board. Each Sister City was asked to send their money in as soon as possible.

8) PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18: George Lilly has been in touch with staff in Channel 18 and will be interviewed soon.

9) 9-11 CONCERT SEPTEMBER 9, 2012: The concert was a great success. The Faulkner Gallery was full. The music was provided by a Mariachi Youth Band, the Unitarian Society Chancel and Women's Choirs, and a Japanese flute player. Donations were not collected this year; the cost for the reception, music, printing costs, and room set up was \$532.92.

10) UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATION AT CABRILLO ARTS PAVILION, OCTOBER 25, 2012: Everyone had a good time; however, it was not as well attended as in past years; we had a little over 100 attendees. Some highlights included: the San Juan Sister City Committee donated the tablecloths and flowers; the Toba Sister City Committee cleaned up; the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee helped with the drinks; and the Patras Sister City Committee gave extra special prizes. Please be sure to let everyone in each Sister City Committee know the date for next year's event set for Thursday, October 24, 2013.

11) SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL – Pat Fallin: Tabled to next Board meeting.

12) OPEN WORLD PROGRAM – Gil Garcia: Tabled to next Board meeting.

13) SISTER CITIES DISPLAY ROOM IN MAYOR'S OFFICE RECEPTION ROOM: Most of the Sister City Committees stated they cannot afford to each donate \$250 for this project. During the discussion, the Toba Sister City Committee representative stated they could donate \$250, with the condition that it will always be a Sister Cities Display Room no matter who the Mayor is and to make sure of this there would need to be approval by the City Council and someone (a third party) would be appointed to make sure that this was never changed. It was decided this would be a worthwhile idea to explore in the future.

14) NETWORKING GET TOGETHER: Tabled to next Board meeting.

15) REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Toba, Japan: Gary Maxwell reported that the Toba Sister City Committee is winding down for the year. On January 20, 2013, there will be a New Year's dinner at the Faulkner Gallery. At the end of July there will be a student exchange with four Junior High School students for 2013.

Dingle, Ireland: Michael Fitzgerald reported that he is reaching out to past members of the committee (approximately 70 people) to help get this sister city back on track. He would like to invite them to participate to form a new board and hopes to report some progress at our next Board meeting.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotia reported that she has been in communication with the Mayor of Patras, Greece, and is getting a copy of the final documents for the Sister City. The Committee is also hosting an event celebrating the Greek Independence Day being held on March 23.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly reported this committee is also wrapping up the year. The culinary school is helping students get jobs in the food industry and has been very successful. The women's group including Mayor Schneider visited Kotor's culinary school and everyone had a good time. The Committee is also putting together another concert of classical music at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara and hopefully an exchange can be made with the Music Academy of Kotor. The exchanges with the water polo, classical music, and culinary group are all in planning stages for next year.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaime Sodusta reported that there will be a Thanksgiving party two weeks from now and in December there will be a mass. The Committee is continuing to collect books for children to send to San Juan.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Craig Neilson reported that most of the Committee is in Puerto Vallarta right now, so there is not too much going on in Santa Barbara. Next spring there will be a student art contest; however, there will be no student exchange due to the violence that has continued to plague Mexico.

Weihai, China: No representative attended; no report made.

16) ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Recording Secretary