



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of March 6, 2013

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at 12:12 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Takako Wakita, chair; Barbara Ellis, Vice-Chair; Blas Garza, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; Milan Mashanovitch, Kotor, Montenegro (alternate); Georgia Gastouniotis, Patras, Greece; Linda Gunther, City Staff Representative.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Linda Mathews, seconded by Blas Garza, and carried, the minutes of the special meeting held January 23, 2013, were approved with the following corrections: Takako Wakita's name was misspelled – the two instances in the minutes are as follows: Call to order and Roll Call. Also under Announcements it should be "City At Large" rather than "City as Large."
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: The following announcement was made: The new policy on how to become a new Sister City is now on the website.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2013**: Reviewed and changes were made, the new calendar to be presented at the next meeting.
7. **AIRPORT TERMINAL PROJECT**: The Map has been installed at the Airport Terminal and the contractor was paid in full. We have received many comments on how well it looks. There will be a dedication ceremony by the Mayor on Thursday, April 25, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. All Board members and committee members are invited to attend; and it is strongly encouraged that at least one person from each sister city committee attend.. Linda Gunther will be asking Tony Ruggieri, the Supervisor for Channel 18 TV to video tape the dedication. Also a press release will be sent to the Santa Barbara News-Press, The Independent, and KEYT-TV regarding the dedication.
8. **LIBRARY EXHIBITION CASE**: The Santa Barbara Library's Main Branch has scheduled the month of October 2013 to fill the main display case with Sister Cities memorabilia. Each Sister City is encouraged to think about displaying something in reference to their sister city program. Also a picture of the map at the Airport Terminal will be placed in the case.

9. **OPEN WORLD PROGRAM:** Gil Garcia is not in attendance as he is attending a Conference in Washington, D.C. with Sister Cities International; he is the organizer for this event. The Yalta group is coming in June and the Board believes that the Yalta group should be hosted and organized by the Ukranium group that Gil believes is in Santa Barbara and that they are interested in forming a new Yalta Sister City Committee. This should be a less formal presentation and an opportunity for the folks in Santa Barbara to begin the process to form the Yalta Sister City Committee.
10. **9-11 Concert:** This annual concert will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2013, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Faulkner Gallery at the Central Library. Suggestions for the performers are to be given at the next meeting after the representatives have asked their Sister City Committees for suggestions.
11. **SO CAL CONFERENCE:** This conference will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013. The Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee is sending a delegation to attend; all others are encouraged to attend as well.
12. **PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18:** Linda Gunther contacted the Supervisor, Tony Ruggieri, of Channel 18, and he is expected to tape the Kotor Sister City Committee in either March or April of 2013.
13. **NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS FROM ALL COMMITTEE BOARDS:** Barbara Ellis and Linda Mathews met and have dates that the Carrillo-Hill Adobe (15 Carrillo Street) is available; the dates are April 16, 18, or 29. They will also contact Dale Swanson from New Life Church since he volunteered his Church for Sister Cities events. After much discussion, it was decided to delegate Barbara Ellis to choose a date, time, and place that works for the majority of the Board members and each Sister City Committee's board members. It was decided that this event will be held in either April or May, depending upon the availability of the majority of the members and a place to hold the event. It will be wine and appetizers from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Barbara asks that all members respond to her emails as quickly as possible as she tries to find a date, time and place that works.
13. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotia reported that the organization is hosting an event celebrating Greek Independence Day on Saturday, March 23. The committee meets every other month. President Gastounioia is in communication with the Patras Mayor. Their membership totals 15, and dues are \$35.00 per year. The committee has a face book page that is doing very well.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Blas Garza reported that when they made a visit to Puerto Vallarta recently the Committee made a commitment to help revitalize the downtown of Puerto Vallarta; it is in bad shape. Also, an artist began a mural depicting images from both Sister Cities and both cities are trying to find a location to place the mural in each sister city. Blas is now trying to find a location in Santa Barbara for the mural.

Weihai, China: Joe Cantrell reported that the Committee held a retreat to get stakeholders together to examine the mission statement and to look at their goals. The latest students that came to Santa Barbara seemed to only want to be tourists and had no real goals. They plan to have a new mission statement and new goals and expand interest in both Weihai and Santa Barbara.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported that they are working on the student exchange program. They need two boys and two girls to participate and asked for help in distributing the flyers.

Kotor, Montenegro: Milan Mashanovitch (Alternate) reported that Ratimir Martinovic, the lead pianist from Montenegro performed at the Music Academy of the West on Thursday, February 28. It was a wonderful performance – everything was perfect. The reception afterwards was very enjoyable. There is a good connection between the Music Academy in Santa Barbara and in Kotor; and it is a really good relationship.

San Juan, Philippines: No representative attended; no report made.

Dingle, Ireland: No representative attended; no report made.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary