

## **Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, July 3, 2013**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Takato Wakita at 12:05 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takato Wakita, chairperson; Barbara Ellis and Marti Correa de Garcia, City-at-Large members; Gil Garcia, (Alternate), Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Eliesa Bollinger (newly elected President), Weihai, China.  
  
Guests: Pat Falling and Missy Zeitsoft
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Linda Mathews, seconded by Barbara Ellis, and carried, the minutes of the meeting held May 1, 2013 were approved with the following correction: Item #15, Toba, Japan, the word Pogoda House should be spelled Pagoda House.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made:
  - Weihai, China alternate has been changed to new President Eliesa Bollinger.
  - Takako Wakita received an inquiry regarding the possibility of a sister city with Ismir, Turkey. This is a famous place for Turkish baths and their patron saint is Saint Barbara.
  - The Music Academy of the West had auditions for the yearly summer “Fellows Program”. It was announced at the last meeting that Isak Haracic, cellist, was chosen to participate in the program. It was requested that George Lilly ask if other Santa Barbara sister cities could publish the auditions in their respective cities.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
  - Missy Zeitsoft, has moved to Santa Barbara and is interested in getting involved in the Dingle Sister City organization.
  - Pat Falling, Sister Cities International (SCI) Southern California state coordinator is willing to assist in sister cities formations and/or organization.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2013:** The following items were added to the calendar:
  - May 24 – Sister City “Networking Get Together” all board members.
  - August 26-September 4 – Puerto Vallarta fundraiser to Guadalajara Mariachi Festival
  - September – (TBA) – Weihai dance performance at Falkner Gallery
7. **ANNUAL REPORT:** All reports have been submitted, except Ireland and Greece.

8. **SCI ANNUAL CONFERENCE – JULY 12-13 AT SAN ANTONIO – voting ballot:** On a motion duly made by George Lilly, seconded by Eliesa Bollinger, and carried, Marti Correa de Garcia, Gil Garcia, and Pat Falling are the designated delegates and certified by the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board were approved.
9. **OPEN WORLD PROGRAM:** Gil Garcia reported on the successful program. Participation was by five Yalta, Ukraine citizens who enthusiastically returned to their city with the hopes of rekindling the Santa Barbara/Yalta Sister City program.
10. **ANNUAL 9-11 CONCERT – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013:** The event is to be held at the Faulkner Gallery, from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. On a motion duly made by Linda Mathews, seconded by Gil Garcia, and carried, \$100 gas money for three San Luis Obispo performers was approved. Takako Wakita will send out a flyer to each sister city representative and each sister city will send out the flyer and information to their membership.
11. **ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013:** The event will be held at the same facility – Cabrillo Arts Pavilion. The tasks will be the same as last year. Takako Wakita will e-mail these to each representative. Weihai, China will invite the “Rebecca Lee” dance group and the San Juan, Philippines will invite the “Pilipino” dance group.
12. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – George Lilly:** Currently waiting to be interviewed.
13. **NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS FROM ALL COMMITTEE BOARDS:**  
Barbara Ellis reported on the April 24 event. Over 20 people participated. The following topics were presented:
  - Budget – Marti Correa de Garcia
  - Fundraising – Pat Falling
  - Student Exchange – Takato Wakita
  - Recruiting and Retention of Members – Gil Garcia

It was a successful event and people would like to continue these gatherings. After further discussion it was decided the next gathering would be on September 27, 2013, or October 4, 2013. Barbara Ellis will report on the date and place at the next meeting.

14. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

**Kotor, Montenegro:** George Lilly reported on the Music Academy of the West “Fellows Program” and the participation of Kotor cellist Isak Haracic. It has been a hectic schedule for the cellist but a very rewarding experience. George also reported on one of the culinary students working in a Kotor resort.

**Weihai, China:** Eliesa Bollinger, President, reported that the committee held a new member's gathering, where about ten were in attendance. The organization is working with the Faulkner Gallery as a location to bring Rebecca Peter's Dance Company for an evening performance and Peter Haslund will talk about Weihai.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** Gil Garcia, Alternate, reported on Puerto Vallarta activities. Over 30 Puerto Vallarta visitors participated in the annual visit to Santa Barbara. Many events took place in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the sister city. A fundraiser is planned for the Guadalajara Mariachi Festival, August 26 to September 4, 2013. The annual trip to Puerto Vallarta is scheduled from November 6 to November 15, 2013.

**San Juan, Philippines:** Jaime Sodusta reported on the recent donation for "Soup for the Children", a \$200 donation was made to feed children of San Juan. Large donations of toys and basic needs were also sent. A mutual visit between the Mayor of San Juan and Mayor Schneider was discussed during the San Juan visit. A Friendship-Pilipino Day is being planned.

It was suggested that members of each sister city committee should have the opportunity to donate to other sister city committee projects.

**Toba, Japan:** Linda Mathews reported on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Tea House at the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens. A luncheon was held at the Wine Cask with the Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara in attendance and the Japanese Consul General also was in attendance. A yard sale is being planned to assist Santa Barbara exchange students participating in the Santa Barbara/Toba Student Exchange Program. Takako Wakita will send out a flyer to each sister city representative and each sister city will send out the flyer and information to their membership.

**Dingle, Ireland:** No Report Made; No Representative Attended.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Correa de Garcia, Secretary