

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, May 07, 2014

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: Chair Takato Wakita called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Takato Wakita, chairperson; Barbara Ellis and Marti Correa de Garcia, City-at-Large members; Gary Maxwell, Toba, Japan; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Michael Fitzgerald and Kathleen Zeitsoff (alternate), Dingle, Ireland; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; and Linda Gunther, Staff Representative.

Guest: Gil Garcia, SoCAL Representative, and Pat Fallin, SCI Representative
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Barbara Ellis, seconded by Gary Maxwell, the minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 2014 were approved with the correction that the report by Toba, Japan, should have been written "Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard" to be previewed in March by the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C., not Toba, Japan, carried.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: The following announcements were made:
 - Staff Representative, Linda Gunther announced a workshop for City Advisory Groups to be held on May 28 at 4:30 PM at the Falkner Gallery in the City Library.
 - Takako Wakita announced that the Annual Report by each sister city committee is due on June 15; she is requesting that it be send to her in a timely manner.
 - It was announced by Chair Wakita that Scott Spalding is visiting Dingle, Ireland for two days.
 - Barbara Ellis announced she has moved to a house that is in the County of Santa Barbara, so she has submitted her letter of resignation. Linda Gunther checked with the City Clerk's Office and Ms. Ellis can stay until a new member is appointed by the City Council.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: none
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2014**: The following items were added to the calendar:

April 27 to May 4: PV – Police Exchange
7. **SANTA BARBARA LIBRARY DISPLAY – 2015**: On a motion duly made by Gary Maxwell, seconded by Barbara Ellis and carried, it was authorized that Takako Wakita can submit an application to reserve the display case at the Santa Barbara Library for the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board in 2015.
8. **NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS FROM ALL COMMITTEE BOARDS**: Barbara Ellis was assigned to be the Chair of this committee; Linda Mathews and Pat Fallin will also be on the committee. Ms. Ellis has offered the recreation center at San Vicente Mobile Home Park as a meeting place for this event. The community will propose several dates for the Board's review.
9. **SoCAL CONFERENCE ON APRIL 5, 2014, IN LOS ANGELES - REPORT**: Gil Garcia discussed the conference briefly. It was well attended (filled to capacity), and had good information and good panels. Positive comments were made by all who attended.
10. **SCI CONFERENCE, JULY 31 TO AUGUST 2, 2014 IN SAN JOSE**: Pat Fallin reported on the July 31 to August 2nd Annual Sister Cities International Conference to be held in San Jose, California. She encouraged Board and Sister City Committee members to attend; it is a chance to meet people from all around the world and discuss issues regarding sister cities. It is a very good learning experience and the conference is near by.
11. **9-11 Concert on Thursday September 11 2014**: Takako Wakita has reserved the Faulkner Gallery at the Santa Barbara Public Library. She announced that entertainment is needed, please call Ms. Wakita with any suggestions.
12. **UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23**: Ms. Wakita reported that the event will take place at the same venue as last year, the Santa Barbara Arts Pavilion on Carrillo Boulevard; planning is still in the works.
13. **2014 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE**: Marti Correa de Garcia reported that a reception took place on April 23rd at the Heritage Oaks Bank, with over 30 art entries submitted for judging from the Santa Barbara High School Art Department. The winning art piece has been shipped to SCI, in Washington, D.C. to compete with other art pieces from all over the world. The first place winner received \$250, sponsored by Heritage Oaks Bank.

14. **OPEN WORLD PROGRAM** – Gil Garcia reported that this year’s program has been cancelled due to the current turmoil in the Ukraine region.
15. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin reported that Mary Kane, CEO of Sister Cities International, has asked to share a report from the Business Insider. This article once again establishes the importance of the sister cities connection to local communities. Ms. Fallin also reiterated that she is available to facilitate a retreat and/or goal setting with any sister city organization that needs her assistance.
16. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Jaime Sodusta** - The next sister city committee to be filmed and aired will be San Juan, Philippines. Programming for other sister cities that have participated can still be seen on the City of Santa Barbara, Sister Cities web-page.
17. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Dingle, Ireland: Michael Fitzgerald reported on the activities of the Dingle Sister City Committee. Their main goal is to re-connect with Dingle. Currently a letter of invitation is being drafted to be signed by the Mayor of Santa Barbara and hand delivered by Scott Spalding in June.

Toba, Japan: Gary Maxwell reported on the activities of the Toba Sister City Committee. The Committee is working on the Student Exchange; four Toba students will arrive in Santa Barbara on July 25th for 10 days of events. On August 6th the Santa Barbara students will leave for Toba. Next year a visit is planned to Toba and other areas of Japan; all are welcome to join the group.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaime Sodusta reported on the activities of the Sister City Committee. A councilman from San Juan will be visiting Santa Barbara (dates to be announced) and would like to visit the Mayor of Santa Barbara. June 14th is Philippine-American Friendship Day, a dinner/dance is being planned at the Elks Lodge in Goleta, and all are invited.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly reported on the activities of the Kotor Sister City Committee. Auditions for the Music Academy of the West’s prestigious Fellows Program took place in Kotor. Although it was well received no participants were selected from Kotor. The UCSB Water Polo team went to Kotor and participated in various events and tours. Next month one of the Kotor committee members will be visiting Kotor. A graduate from their Culinary Academy in Kotor will be interning at the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. The Santa Barbara committee is working on funding a Polo team from Kotor to come to Santa Barbara. The Mayor of Kotor is retiring; she has been a great help with the Sister City Kotor program. Lastly, Kotor would like to gift a Mediterranean Arts Center to the Kotor Sister City; a miracle would need to take place to renovate this building because of the tremendous cost.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Marti Correa de Garcia, a Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee member on behalf of Roberto Najera and alternate Blas Garza, gave a brief report. As reported previously, the Young Artist Showcase was a success. The directors of the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens and Lotusland are currently in Puerto Vallarta and a ceremony is taking place making the two gardens “sisters” (Puerto Vallarta Botanic Gardens and Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens). A delegation from the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Department participated in a weeklong training program with Puerto Vallarta to teach techniques to various Puerto Vallarta law enforcement groups. The group is in the planning stages for the visitation of the Puerto Vallarta delegation in July. A fundraiser is planned for August to Mexico’s Copper Canyon; proceeds will benefit the Boca de Tomatlan Health Clinic currently under construction in Puerto Vallarta.

Weihai, China: No Representative nor Alternate attended the Board meeting.

Patras, Greece: No Representative nor Alternate attended the Board meeting.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Correa de Garcia, Secretary