

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, July 02, 2014

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Takato Wakita called meeting to order at 12:00 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takato Wakita, chairperson; Barbara Ellis and Marti Correa de Garcia, City-at-Large members; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Kathleen Zeitsoff (alternate), Dingle, Ireland; Georgia Gastounotis, Patras, Greece; and Staff Representative Linda Gunther.

Guest: Gary Maxwell, Vivi Tziouvaras, Anne Goulart, Michelle Duke-Special Olympics Santa Barbara, Catharine M. Morrale-Leadership Council, Gil Garcia and Pat Fallin.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Georgia Gastounotis, seconded by Gary Maxwell, the minutes of the meeting held May 07, 2014 were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made:
 - SCI Annual Award for Best Overall Program (50,001-100,000 population) was awarded to Puerto Vallarta. The award is being presented to the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee at the Annual Conference in San Jose. At the August 12, 2014 City of Santa Barbara Council Meeting, a presentation of the award will be given.
 - Santa Barbara High School art student Aaron Ortiz was chosen as one of the 10 finalists of the SCI Young Artist Showcase contest.
 - Ms. Wakita submitted an application for the Library Display for the month of September 2015.
 - Santa Barbara-Dingle Sister City President Michael Fitzgerald has resigned.
 - Gil Garcia, President of the SoCal Sister Cities association announced the idea of regional meetings for Southern California sister cities. He would like a regional meeting to take place in Santa Barbara with Ventura/Oxnard/Santa Barbara/Solvang/Lompoc sister cities participating. This item will be put on the next agenda meeting for further discussion.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
 - Guests Michelle Duke and Catharine M. Morrale spoke about the Special Olympics-World Games that are being hosted by Los Angeles in July of 2015. Three days prior to the World Games, several host California cities will receive 100 Special Olympic athletics along with coaches and family members. Santa Barbara has been chosen as one of these host cities. Westmont College will be housing the 100 plus people. Michelle and Catharine are asking the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board to help plan some of the events. This item will be put on the next agenda meeting for further discussion.
 - Gary Maxwell represented Takato Wakita at the Farwell Reception of the Ronald Regan Navy Ship that came to Santa Barbara on the first part of June. Mr. Maxwell said

it was a grand affair, with over 500 people and groups attending. The Council of Japan was also a guest speaker since the SS Ronald Regan will be going to Japan next.

- Linda Mathews announced the annual Obon Festival at the Buddhist Church on Montecito Street. Currently every Sunday at 2:00 PM practices are taking place for the “Bon Odori” Dance that will be performed at the Obon Festival on July 19.

6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2014:** The following items were added to the calendar:

July 19 – Obon Festival, Buddhist Church on Montecito Street.

7. **ANNUAL REPORT:** To-date Ms. Takato has not received annual reports for Toba and Dingle. She encourages these groups to get their reports in since June 30 was the deadline.

8. **NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS FROM ALL COMMITTEE BOARDS:** Barbara Ellis, Pat Fallin, Linda Mathews and Linda Gunther are hard at work planning the next networking/get together. Ms. Ellis is still waiting to hear from several Sister City Committees regarding the best date and time, once a consensus has been reached, each group is encouraged to invite a minimum of four members from their group.

9. **SCI CONFERENCE, JULY 31 TO AUGUST 2, 2014 IN SAN JOSE:** Pat Fallin reported on the July 31 to August 2nd conference to be held in San Jose, CA. The City of Santa Barbara has four votes at the conference. On a motion duly made by Linda Mathews, seconded by Elliesa Bollinger, it was approved the three voting members from Santa Barbara will be Marti Correa de Garcia, Pat Fallin and Gil Garcia, carried.

10. **9-11 Concert on Thursday September 11, 2014:** Takako Wakita has reserved the Faulkner Gallery at the Santa Barbara Public Library. She announced that the Unitarian Society Choir has agreed to be part of the program. Additional entertainment was discussed; please call Ms. Wakita with any suggestions.

11. **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. Entertainment was discussed; the Japanese Dancers will be contacted.

12. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin reported on the current changes to its Affiliation Policy, which affect the recognition of new, and existing relationships. The Executive Committee of SCI Board of Directors has approved the changes, which include:

- U.S. communities forming relationships with international cities that already have a U.S. sister city are no longer required to secure a “cooperative agreement” from the existing U.S. partner in order to have their relationship formally recognized as a “sister city”; and
- If two U.S. cities have the same sister city abroad, the city that first formed its

relationship will be recognized as the “Charter Sister City” in Sister Cities International’s directory.

13. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Jaime Sodusta** – No report.

14. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotis reported on the activities of the Patras Sister City Committee. The Committee is preparing for the Greek Festival; they will have a Patras Sister City table and solicit membership. The Committee is close to finalizing their non-profit status, an MOU with the University of Patras and UCSB is in the works and lastly the planning of a Casino Night in October.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Roberto Najera reported on the activities of the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee. As reported previously, the SCI Annual Award for Best Overall Program (50,001 – 100,000 population) was awarded to Puerto Vallarta. The clinic in Boca is almost finished and will benefit several Puerto Vallarta communities. A Puerto Vallarta artist participated in the Santa Barbara I. Madonnari Street Painting Festival, a July 5th BBQ is being held, emergency equipment is to be delivered to Puerto Vallarta next month and about 20 visitors from Puerto Vallarta will be in Santa Barbara from July 22 to July 30.

Weihai, China: Elliese Bollinger reported on the activities of the Weihai Sister City Committee. A successful Chinese New Year dinner took place at a local Chinese restaurant. Free movie night (Chinese movies) at the Montecito YMCA is ongoing. A Chinese performance at the Granada Theatre is being planned. New contact in Weihai is being sought.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported on the activities of the Toba Sister City Committee. The Committee is finalizing work on the Student Exchange; four Toba students will arrive in Santa Barbara in July for 10 days of events. On August 6th the Santa Barbara students will leave for Toba. A BBQ at Gary Maxwell’s home is planned for the students and all Santa Barbara Sister City Board members are invited.

Dingle, Ireland: Kathleen Zeitsoff reported on the activities of the Dingle Sister City Committee. Currently the Committee has 10 active people, the next step is to have a membership meeting to exchange ideas and talk about electing a new president.

San Juan, Philippines: No Representative nor Alternate attended the Board meeting.

Kotor, Montenegro: No Representative nor Alternate attended the Board meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Correa de Garcia, Secretary