

**Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday,
September 03, 2014**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Takako Wakita called meeting to order at 12:03 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako 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; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; Robert Najera, Puerto Vallarta; and Linda Gunther, Staff Representative.

Others Present: Dennis Gagnon, Luella Engelhart, and Melisa Ashbaugh Johnston – group from “2020 A Year Without War” and Pat Fallin, Sister Cities International Representative.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Barbara Ellis, seconded by Georgia Gastounotis, with correction on PUBLIC COMMENT - Special Olympics-World Games, 100 plus **cities**, not people and Betsy Condos is Alternate for Patras, Greece, the minutes of the meeting held July 2, 2014 were approved as amended.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made:
 - Jim Armstrong, City Administrator, is retiring; all Board members are invited to his retirement party on Friday, September 19, 2014.
 - Scott Spaulding traveled to Dingle, Ireland, to revitalize the Dingle Committee; he is now the new president of the Santa Barbara/Dingle Sister City Committee and the representative to this Board.
 - An article in the Santa Barbara News-Press announced that Roberto Najera was elected as the new president of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE
6. **2020 A YEAR WITHOUT WAR:** Dennis Gagnon, spokesperson for the group gave a brief history on the formation of this organization. It was started about two years ago at Santa Barbara City College. This group is not idealistic, pacifist or world without weapons supporters. The mission of the group is not to have war worldwide in 2020. About 20,000 members have signed up supporting this cause. The “2020 A Year Without War” group attended a Santa Barbara City Council meeting recently and the Mayor gave them a Proclamation in support of “2020 A Year Without War.” The group is asking for the Sister Cities Board’s support and also the seven sister cities committees’ we represent; they want to build a global network. Eventually all proclamations, petitions, and resolutions will be presented to the United Nations. Mayor Schneider is willing to send a letter and a copy of the Proclamation to each sister city supporting their initiative. On a motion duly made by Barbara Ellis, seconded by Georgia Gastounotis a motion was made and carried to accept Mayor Schneider’s proposal to write a letter to each of the seven Sister Cities supporting the “2020 A Year Without War” effort.
7. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2014:** The following item was added to the calendar:
 - On September 9 at the City Council meeting the Sister Cities International award will be presented to the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee.

8. **SANTA BARBARA LIBRARY DISPLAY – 2015** - Ms. Takako is securing a date for 2015.
9. **NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS FROM ALL COMMITTEE BOARDS:** Barbara Ellis, Pat Fallin, Linda Mathews and Linda Gunther are hard at work planning the third networking/get together, Common Denominators in Successful Sister Cities. Ms. Ellis has requested a \$250 refundable cleaning deposit for the San Vicente Mobile Home Park recreation facility.
10. **9-11 Concert on Thursday September 11, 2014:** Takako Wakita reported that all is set for the concert. Please advertise this event to your individual membership.
11. **UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23:** Ms. Wakita handed out last year's duties and volunteer jobs. Entertainment was discussed; the Japanese Dancers from Oxnard have agreed to perform at the celebration. It was also suggested that Japanese dancing led by Takako be performed. Practice will be held at Takako's home on October 12 and 19 at 3:00 PM.
12. **REPORT ON SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) CONFERENCE, JULY 31 TO AUGUST 2, 2014 IN SAN JOSE:** Pat Fallin reported on a successful conference. Great workshops were held and the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee was awarded Best Overall Program (population 50,001 to 100,000). Kudos to Kotor, Montenegro for their Sister City program by Dick and Jane Newhouse members of the Tucson, Arizona Sister City and past-president of SCI.
13. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin suggested we look at the Sister Cities International web-page, lots of information, such as networking, best practices, templates to follow and possible funds if we qualify. You can also post your events in the SCI Bulletin. This is why we belong to SCI!
14. **SO CAL REGIONAL MEETING:** NONE
15. **SPECIAL OLYMPICS – WORLD GAMES:** Takako continues her correspondence with this group and is asking for logistics and involvement of cities participation in July 2015.
16. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Jaime Sodusta** – No report.
17. **ANNUAL REPORT – 2013 – 2014:** Ms. Wakita thanked everyone for turning in their annual report and praised Linda Gunther for her editing.
18. **YOUNG ARTIST SHOWCASE:** Pat Fallin reported that the traveling exhibit of ten art pieces has not found a place to display them and we have not secured a date from SCI. Pat will ask Heritage Oaks Bank if they have room to show this art work.
19. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Roberto Najera reported on the activities of the Puerto Vallarta Committee. A fundraiser trip was recently taken to Copper Canyon in Mexico; all proceeds will benefit the Boca Health Clinic. A Sister Cities Mexican conference is being held in Qualta, Mexico at the end of September, several Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee members are attending. A general membership dinner is being held tonight at Mesa Café, all are invited. A Puerto Vallarta Rotary Club delegation will be visiting Santa Barbara from September 4 through September 13. The annual visitation to Puerto Vallarta is being planned from November 4 through November 13, we expect 35 or more people to participate.

Dingle, Ireland: Kathleen Zeitsoff reported on the activities of the Dingle Sister City Committee. The Committee has a new president, Scott Spaulding. Since the last report to the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board, three meetings have taken place. Scott is communicating with Dingle. Before end of 2014 hopefully a delegation from Dingle will arrive in Santa Barbara. The second annual Christmas party is being planned at La Arcade Bristo.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly reported on the activities of the Kotor Sister City Committee. The August fundraiser at the Divino's Brentwood restaurant was a success with two of the graduates of the Kotor Culinary Academy assisting chef Milic with the food preparation. Restaurant owner/chef Goran Milic is in Kotor formalizing a restaurant opening in Kotor. This will give an opportunity for future interns and job creation. A plaque was taken to the Mayor of Kotor from the University of Santa Barbara's Water Polo team; in appreciation for her aid in assisting a Water Polo team member's return back to Santa Barbara because of his brother's tragic death. A women's clothing store in Montecito is considering selling clothing made in Kotor.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotis reported on the activities of the Patras Sister City Committee. The Committee had a successful booth at the Greek Festival. A March fundraiser is being planned for Greek Independence on the 21st. The Committee is close to finalizing their non-profit status; a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Patras and UCSB is in the works; and lastly Georgia's husband was in Patras and was able to talk about the Sister City program.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaime Sodusta reported on the activities of the San Juan Sister City Committee. They are working on having the Consulate of the Philippines visit Santa Barbara.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported on the activities of the Committee. The Committee had a successful Student Exchange; four Toba students arrived in Santa Barbara in July for ten days of events and on August 6th the Santa Barbara students left for Toba. Modern technology has improved communication between the host families.

Weihai, China: No report was made and no representative attended.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Correa de Garcia, Secretary