

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday,

November 5, 2014

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Takako Wakita called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, chairperson; Barbara Ellis, City-at-Large member; Gary Maxwell (alternate), Toba, Japan; Scott Spaulding, Dingle, Ireland; Bessie Condos, (alternate) Patras, Greece; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; and Linda Gunther, Staff Representative.

Others Present: Kathleen Zeitsoff (alternate), Dingle, Ireland; and Pat Fallin, Sister Cities International Representative.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Gary Maxwell and seconded by Barbara Ellis, with a correction of the name Bestsey Condos SHOULD be Bessie Condos the minutes for the meeting held on September 3, 2014, were approved as amended.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - Paul Casey has been appointed as the Acting City Administrator.
 - Everyone is invited to the Diplomatic Gala in Washington, D.C., on March 10, 2015, the tickets are \$250.00 each.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE
6. **REVIEW OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2014:** The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **2020 A YEAR WITHOUT WAR:** At the meeting held on September 3, 2014, 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; however, most of the representatives/alternates had not met with their committees so this will be discussed at the next meeting with everyone reporting on whether or not each committee is asking the Mayor to send the letter with a copy of her proclamation to our seven sister cities. Each Sister City Committee will need to provide a draft copy of the letter for the Mayor to send with the name and address of the person to send it to.
8. **SANTA BARBARA LIBRARY DISPLAY – 2015 – SEPTEMBER OR APRIL:** The Central Library is unable to accommodate us for 2015 so there will be no display.
9. **NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS FROM ALL SEVEN COMMITTEES:** This was cancelled; a new date/time will be set at the next meeting in January – all Sister City Committees were asked to check in with their members to find a date and time that is convenient so all can attend.
10. **REPORT RE 9-11 CONCERT ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014:** Takako Wakita reported the concert was well attended with approximately 180 people there. The music was very good and all the musicians donated their time, so the only expenses were \$108.97 for the piano moving and room set up and printing the programs and flyers.

11. **UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23:** Takako Wakita reported that approximately 130 people attended and it was very successful. Next year she would like all committees to have one person selling raffle tickets during the event. The Japanese dancers from Oxnard were paid and also some extra food was purchased. A suggestion for next year was to ask folks bringing food to please either give the recipe or at least let folks know if there are any items that may cause allergies to identify them (i.e., wheat, spices, etc.). Gary Maxwell said his guest from Germany was very impressed with this event. It was well done and everyone had a good time.
12. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin reported that the next conference will be held from July 10-12 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Pat Fallin reported that the Young Artists and Authors competition will be held again next year and suggests that all the seven Sister City Committees participate and encourage these young people to turn in their art work and writing. You can help by contacting the art and English teachers at the public schools and private schools.
14. **SO CAL REGIONAL MEETING:** Pat Fallin reported the regional meetings are being held and there will be one in San Bernardino in February. All are welcome to attend these meetings. They would like Santa Barbara to host one as well.
15. **SPECIAL OLYMPICS – WORLD GAMES:** NO REPORT
16. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Jaime Sodusta** NO REPORT
17. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**
Dingle, Ireland: Scott Spaulding, Representative, reported they are ramping up activities and interest.
Kotor, Montenegro: Neither the representative nor alternate attended.
Patras, Greece: Bessie Condos, Alternate, reported that the Greek Independence Day celebration will be held in March.
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Neither the representative nor alternate attended.
San Juan, Philippines: Jaime Sodusta, Representative, stated that there was nothing to report.
Toba, Japan: Gary Maxwell, Alternate, reported that there will be a New Year's dinner on January 25, 2015. Also he encouraged all Sister City Committees to ask 13, 14, and 15 year old students to participate in the yearly student exchange with Toba, Japan in July/August.
Weihai, China: Neither the representative nor alternate attended.
18. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Staff Representative