

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, January 7, 2015

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Takako Wakita called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, Chairperson; Barbara Ellis Vice-Chair; Scott Spaulding, Dingle, Ireland; Robert Najera, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Linda Mathews, Toba Japan; Ken Steiner, Weihai, China; and Milan Mashnovitch, Kotor (alternate).
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Scott Spaulding and seconded by Robert Najera, the minutes for the meeting held on November 5, 2014, was approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** New member to the Board, Ken Steiner (Weihai, China).
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
6. **REVIEW OF CALENDAR:** The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **2020 A YEAR WITHOUT WAR:** An update of the goals and the proclamation was given by Takako. Reports of representatives were as follows: Takako explained that Kotor had already stated that his Sister City Committee was not in favor of the proclamation. Linda Mathews stated that considering that Japan has a No War Constitution, sending the proclamation to Toba, Japan needs to be handled with a great deal of delicacy and diplomacy. The Toba Sister City Committee made a decision just to inform Toba about the proclamation. Linda Mathews drafted a letter for Mayor Schneider and will forward it to the other Sister Cities Committees. Scott Spaulding reported that Dingle is not an incorporated city so it is a non-issue for their Sister City. Ken Steiner stated that Weihai is in a similar position as Toba since all such decisions come from the central government; he requested a copy of the proclamation and will report in March. Robert Najera stated that the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee had been informed of the proclamation but there had been no vote taken yet, he will report in the March meeting.
8. **NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER:** Input was requested from members present. Members present stated that a Friday evening get together would be preferable. A tentative date was set for Friday, April 24, 2015. An e-mail requesting input as to subjects of interest and possible contributions of expertise from members will be sent to Board members.
9. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL(SCI) REPORT:** Tabled due to absence of presenter.
10. **SCI YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE:** Tabled due to absence of presenter.
11. **SO CAL REGIONAL MEETING:** Tabled due to absence of presenter.

12. **SPECIAL OLIMPICS - WORLD GAMES:** Tabled due to absence of presenter.
13. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18:** Tabled due to absence of presenter.
14. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Dingle, Ireland: Scott Spaulding reported on communications with Bryan Destaic from Dingle, Ireland. Plans are being drawn for a visitation from Dingle to Santa Barbara in the spring. (The Christmas party was canceled.)

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Robert Najera reported that: 1.) Gil and Marti Garcia were in Puerto Vallarta where the final stages of the clinic in Boca de Tomatlan, is in the process of obtaining the final permits necessary so that the clinic may open by the end of the month. 2.) In a town in Puerto Vallarta called Volcanes, a Community Center has been opened where 40 sewing machines have been placed at the service of ladies in the community where they work and earn a living. 3.) The community center is also used for after school classes for Junior High students in Computers, Horticulture and English Language learning. These projects have been accomplished as a joint effort of SB/PV Sister city, the Rotary club, a California group called Club Guadalajara and contributions from the Mexican Government. In this \$1 x \$3 program, the Mexican Government matches every \$1 donated by the private sector with a \$3.00 contribution by the government.

Weihai, China: Ken Steiner reported that Weihai is in the process of organization. The program of showing Chinese Movies at the YMCA has continued and Ken will be sending information concerning their next showing.

Kotor, Montenegro: Milan Mashanovitch reported that Kotor is planning a fundraiser and will send information with details.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported that: 1.) Toba is planning a 50th Anniversary visit to Toba, Japan. This trip will take place from the 9th or 10th (not defined yet) to the 22nd of November and will be open to all. 2.) Santa Barbara/Toba is beginning to recruit students for their 10 day exchange. 3.) Shin Nen Kai (New Year party and general meeting) will take place in the Faulkner Gallery on Sunday, February 8th at 5:30 P.M. The cost will be \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members.

Patras, Greece: Neither the representative nor the alternate attended.

San Juan, Philippines: Neither the representative nor the alternate attended.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ellis, Vice-Chair