

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, September 2, 2015

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Takako Wakita called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, chair; Bea Molina, City-at-Large member; Pat Fallin, Dingle, Ireland; Raul Navarro, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Albe Dumlao, San Juan, Philippines; Gary Mathews (Alternate), Toba, Japan; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro, Peter Haslund, Weihai, China; Georgia Gastouniotis, Patras, Greece; and Linda Gunther, Staff Representative.

Also, Jim Brock, Alternate, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; and Jaimie Sodusta, Alternate, San Juan, Philippines were present.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes for the July 1, 2015, meeting, were approved with the following corrections:
 - #14 – United Nations Day – Thursday, October 22, 2015: Foggy Dew will be given \$100 for playing at the United Nations dinner;
 - #16 – Representative Reports: Toba, Japan: The Toba Student Exchange was held from August 2 through August 21 and the Welcome Party was on August 9; the word “oboe” was misspelled, it should be “obon” and the pool party was for the exchange students.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - The Dingle Sister City Committee elected Pat Fallin and Willy Quinn as Co-Presidents and Pat Fallin is the Board Representative and Willy Quinn is the Alternate.
 - The Weihai Sister City Committee is regrouping and Peter Haslund is now the Board Representative.
 - The Annual Report has been sent to the Mayor and Council and is now on the internet; Takako thanked all the Sister City Committees for helping with this annual report.
 - Linda Gunther, Staff Representative, explained the difference between the three appointees by the Mayor and Council that serve four years in each term, and the seven sister cities committees that appoint their own representatives and alternates to the Board.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE.
6. **REVIEW OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2015:** The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **9-11 CONCERT:** Takako prepared a flyer for the annual concert and invited the Mayor to attend to greet folks. We need two ushers – Bea Molina and Linda Gunther volunteered.

All the Sister City Committees are encouraged to have as many of their members as possible attend and to forward the flyer to everyone. The Santa Barbara News-Press is going to do a photo shoot which will help us promote the concert. There will be no refreshments and it is an entirely free concert. Linda Gunther was asked to confirm with the Library personnel that we can use their microphone and their podium.

8. **UNITED NATIONS DAY – THURSDAY, OCOBER 22, 2015:** All Sister City Committee Representatives are to get the name of the attendees from each of their committees and send the name to Bea Molina for reservations by October 18. The Board reviewed the duties and tasks to be completed for the dinner. Also, the Tri-County United Nations Association President – Barbara Gaughen-Muller will be at the event and speaking during the presentations. Ms. Gaughen-Muller attended the Board meeting and spoke about this annual event. Takako will ask Mark Hamilton to be the Master of Ceremonies and Craig Nielsen for the bar (if he cannot do it San Juan will take over). The food organizing in the kitchen will be the two ladies who have been doing it and if they are not available, Patras will take care of it. The cost for folks not bringing food will be \$15 per person.
9. **UNITED NATIONS DAY MARCH – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015:** Barbara Gaughen-Muller, Tri-County United Nations Association President, spoke about the event being held on Saturday, October 24. This is the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations and there will be a March beginning at 10 am on Cabrillo Boulevard by the Bird Refuge with a birthday cake served at noon. She asks that everyone bring their city or country flag to be carried during the march. Also, as many people as possible are encouraged to come as they hope to have 70 people in honor of the 70th anniversary in the march. The Mayor and Councilmember Cathy Murillo will be at the event.
10. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin, Sister Cities International Representative, said there wasn't much to report except for the 60th Anniversary of SCI which will be held on July 16, 2016, in Washington, D.C. SCI was established in 1956 to bring about world peace one person at a time.
11. **REPORT ON SCI SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING – AUGUST 15 – Gil Garcia:** Pat Fallin, Sister Cities International Representative, reported on the SoCal Chapter of SCI since Gil Garcia was not present. At the last meeting held in San Diego, a demonstration was made regarding student exchanges using Skype. Pat said it was very impressive and a great way to do a student exchange. The Skype call was to Afghanistan. There was also a student from Santa Barbara that attended the meeting. Georgia Gastouniotis also attended and was very impressed and said that her committee will give this a try.
12. **REPORT ON SCI ANNUAL CONFERENCE – JULY 2015 – Pat Fallin:** Pat reported on the conference – it was low-key as next year will be the big conference.
13. **REPORT ON NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS OF ALL COMMITTEES:** A written report was passed out; it was a good meeting. The attendees included the following Sister Cities with some comments about their activities and needs:

- Weihai, China – The Weihai Sister City Committee has 102 members, they show movies about China and hold an annual Chinese New Year dinner; the Committee believes they need to develop diversity in their membership and leadership and would like more student exchanges;
- Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – The Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee has 160 members, their strength is that it is geographically close and travel is relatively inexpensive which makes exchanges easy. This Committee has several projects in Puerto Vallarta. They also hold monthly general meetings at the Mesa Café that include dinner; a monthly e-mail newsletter is emailed out to all their members, and they have a website and Facebook page. The Sister City Committee would like to increase membership and get more members involved in the leadership and leading projects.
- Patras, Greece – They have recently received their seal from Patras; although they are not yet a 501c3. Their activities include: a Bulletin in the Greek Orthodox Church bulletin, a web site, and a University exchange with UCSB professors, and a booth at the Annual Greek Festival. The Committee is still working on a 501c3, increasing their members, fundraising, and understanding their sister city.
- Toba, Japan – They have trips to Toba, films, and a Japanese New Year Celebration yearly.
- San Juan, Philippines – Their membership is mostly the Filipino Community and the meetings are held at the Filipino Community Center. At the meetings, one person leads the group, which is very dependent on him. Usually there are about ten members at the core and about twenty “tag along” members. This Committee believes they need to have a structure with a rotating leadership.

At the meeting, a request was made from the attendees that they would like to have a City staff person speak at the Board meeting regarding liability and insurance waivers. It was also suggested that each Sister City Committee contact their consulate; they can be very helpful and the consulate likes to connect with Sister Cities.

14. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Jaime Sodusta:** The San Juan Sister City Committee has begun working with Channel 18.

15. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Dingle, Ireland: Pat Fallin, Representative, reported that there was a meeting on August 10 and both Pat and Willy Quinn were appointed as Co-Presidents. Missy Zeitsoff is the Vice-President, and Tom McCool is the Secretary/Treasurer. Both Pat and Tom have been working together to straighten out the finances. Another meeting is scheduled for September 29. They are trying to reestablish their membership.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, reported about Grogan meeting the new Mayor and Chefs. It is a big benefit for both Kotor and here for these new Chefs and having them be trained; they are all doing so very well. They have now hired a full time

liaison person to work with the resorts and restaurants for the training for these folks. They are all doing a good job. They are now doing two or three sessions a year.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, reported that Gil and Marti Garcia are going to Greece with a group of 15 from Santa Barbara. The Committee is planning an event in March. Georgia attended the conference in San Diego and learned a great deal about Skyping – they hope to be able to Skype and are trying new fund raising ideas.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Raul Navarro, Representative, reported that they are going to Puerto Vallarta from November 30 to December 9, 2015; they will have many activities on their visit. The Committee had a great visitation from the group that came to Santa Barbara at the end of July (July 27). The Sister City Committee's board had a retreat that was very good. They are having their general meeting tonight and a board meeting next week.

San Juan, Philippines: Alba Dumlao, Representative, reported that Jaimie Sodusta, is going to San Juan for a visit. He has a book he will be presenting to the Mayor and asked that everyone sign it and that Mayor Helene Schneider sign it.

Toba, Japan: Gary Maxwell, Alternate, reported that the student exchange was a big success. A trip to Toba this fall has been sold out. They are planning a number of big events for their 50th Anniversary next year. There will be a class on Japanese flower arrangements in September, please call Linda Mathews if you are interested in attending; the class is \$50, but well worth it.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that this Sister City Committee is reorganizing. At the next meeting new officers and plans will be made for the year ahead.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Staff Representative