

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

November 4, 2015

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Takako Wakita called meeting to order at 12:05 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, chairperson; Beatriz Molina, City-at-Large member; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Willy Quinn, Dingle, Ireland; Jaime Sodusta (Alternate), San Juan, Philippines; Jim Brock (Alternate), Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; and Linda Gunther, Staff Representative.

Other Attendees: David Zomichow from the Kotor, Montenegro, Sister City Committee.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Beatriz Molina and seconded by Linda Mathews, with a correction of the name Gary Mathews SHOULD be Gary Maxwell, the minutes for the meeting held on September 2, 2015, were approved as amended.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Willy Quinn is now the representative for the Dingle, Ireland, Sister City Committee, and Missy Zeistoff is the Alternate. Linda Gunther announced the KEYT Senior Reporter John Palminteri asked to have a holiday get together with our Sister Cities Board in December.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE
6. **REVIEW OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2015:** The calendar was reviewed for 2015 and 2016 and updated.
7. **REPORT ON 9-11 CONCERT – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2015:** The 9-11 concert was very successful; it was a full house. This year, there were young people involved – Show Stoppers Youth Ensemble, as well as Aoife Quinn. Thanks go to Marti Correa de Garcia for the publicity. Mayor Pro Tempore Greg Hart welcomed the attendees. There was a great article in the Santa Barbara News-Press about the concert. Also, Linda Gunther and Albe Dumlao were thanked for helping as ushers.
8. **REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS DAY – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015:** The United Nations Day dinner was very successful. There were approximately 125 people at the dinner. There was a problem due to the fact that some people did not check in and went in the kitchen door or the back door – a possible solution would be to have someone stand by the kitchen door to make sure that they are directed to the main check in at the lobby entrance. The Foggy Dew performance was wonderful. The Junior Spirit was very good. We understand that the people in back were unable to see these performances well. Barbara Gaughen-Muller, United Nations Representative, gave a very good speech. Thanks go to all the Committees for the prizes for the raffle. All Sister Cities Committees participated except for Weihai. For next year, please read the task sheet for each person's assignments. Also we might want to purchase flags to be placed by the food so people will know where the dishes are from. Linda Mathews has volunteered to do this

task next year. No one was in the kitchen and in charge, so that created some problems; Bea Molina will help this next year. Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the Toba Sister City Committee and many folks from Toba will be at this event.

9. **REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS DAY MARCH – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015:** The march was very successful. It was a beautiful day and many people attended; although the timing was off, afternoon would have been better when more people were there.

10. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** No report made.

11. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Jaime Sodusta** Jaime reported that his committee is working on this.

17. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Dingle, Ireland: Willy Quinn reported that they are having a Holiday party to be able to recruit new members. In February some Dingle folks are coming with two films to the Santa Barbara International Film Festival. In September Willy is organizing a trip to Dingle for two weeks at the same time as Willy's daughter is graduating from school in Ireland.

Kotor, Montenegro: Neither the representative nor the alternate attended the meeting; however, David Zomichaw from the Sister City Committee attended and gave a report that the culinary school that trains deaf kids to work in restaurants is doing very well. The Water Polo Team is expected this summer. At the November 9 meeting a trip will be set up for the teams and they are looking for musicians to come here to perform.

Patras, Greece: No representative nor alternate attended the meeting.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Jim Brock said that a general meeting is being held tonight; also Mayor Schneider was in Puerto Vallarta and was sent a photo of her while there; she is home now. There is a visitation from Wednesday, November 30 through Wednesday, December 9, with 28 from their Sister City Committee going on the trip.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaime Sodusta reported that he went to the Philippines and gave the Mayor a book about Santa Barbara signed by Mayor Schneider. The Mayor of San Juan sent a thank you note to Mayor Schneider. The Sister City Committee has a new President – Virgie Horstman. They are having a Christmas party in December.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported that the New Year's party will be held on January 24. Next year's delegation planned to go to Japan will be 19 for two weeks. This will be the first part of the 50th year celebrations of this relationship. Next year, Toba will send a delegation to Santa Barbara.

Weihai, China: Neither the representative nor alternate attended.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, City Staff Representative