

## Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, January 6, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Takako Wakita called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, chair; Bea Molina, City-at-Large member; Willy Quinn, Dingle, Ireland; Raul Navarro, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Georgia Gastouniotis, Patras, Greece; Mayor Helene Schneider, Council Liaison; and Linda Gunther, Staff Representative.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING ON NOVEMBER 4, 2016:** On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved with one correction under Toba, Japan, in the second sentence, the word Next should be This.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
6. **REVIEW OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2016:** The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **LIBRARY DISPLAY, SEPTEMBER 2016** Ms. Wakita announced that we will have the Library Display case for the month of September and has asked all Sister City Committees to have items ready to be displayed at this time.
8. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) 2016 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE:** The reception will be held at the First Business Bank in April. The committee is meeting with the schools to ask students to submit their artwork. The winner will be sent to Washington, D.C. at the SCI Conference in July. This is a really good event for students; please be sure to let each of your committees know and any school art classes.
9. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin, Sister Cities International Representative, was unable to attend; however, she provided the Board with information regarding the NoCal/SoCal joint board meeting to be held on Saturday, January 30, in San Miguel from 10 am to 3 pm. All members are encouraged to attend.
10. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Jamie Sodusta:** No report made, due to Jaimie Sodusta's absence.
11. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)  
  
**Dingle, Ireland:** Willy Quinn reported that they had a Christmas gathering with 75 people in attendance. A meeting will be held on Monday, January 11, at 6 pm. A party will be held during the Santa Barbara International Film Festival as some folks from Dingle are presenting their film at the Festival. The Sister City Committee is planning a trip to Dingle in September 2016.  
  
**Kotor, Montenegro:** No representative nor alternate attended; in their absence, Takako Wakita reported that the Culinary Academy Program, which will be in their sixth year this year, is going strong.  
  
**Patras, Greece:** Georgia Gastouniotis reported that she attended a SoCal SCI meeting last year and learned more about the skype program with students. Her Committee is now interviewing school counselors to get approval from the schools to start a skype program with Patras. The

Greek Independence Day celebration will be held on March 26 and in September of 2017 they plan to have a trip to Patras and attend the Film Festival. This Committee has also been in touch with the Greek Counsel General.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** Raul Navarro reported their monthly meeting will be held this evening – they meet the first Wednesday of every month. They also send out monthly newsletters on the internet to all their members and the Sister Cities Board members. Father Larry will be the speaker at their February meeting.

**San Juan, Philippines:** No representative nor alternate attended and no report was made.

**Toba, Japan:** Linda Mathews reported that there was a great trip to Toba with 21 people on the trip. Mayor Schneider sent greetings electronically to the Toba Mayor. They saw Japanese Dance performances and presented gifts from Mayor Schneider and from the Toba Sister City Committee. There will be a New Year's party on January 24, at the Faulkner Gallery in the Central Library, from 5:30 pm to 8 pm, all are invited to attend. In October the Toba delegation will come to Santa Barbara for the fifty year celebration of their Sister City relationship; and will be at the United Nations dinner in October.

**Weihai, China:** No representative nor alternate attended and no report was made.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Gunther, Staff Representative