

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, March 2, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Takako Wakita at 12:04 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, chairperson; Beatriz Molina and Marti Correa de Garcia, City-at-Large members; Raul Navarro, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Georgia Gastouniotis, Patras, Greece; Willy Quinn, Dingle, Ireland; Linda Gunther, City Representative; Pat Fallin, SCI Representative

Guest: Gil Garcia, Open World; and Jose Carlos Arrellano, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico Visitor.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Beatriz Molina, seconded by Raul Navarro, and carried, the minutes of the meeting held January 06, 2016 were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcement was made:
 - Westmont College is putting on a French Family Day on Saturday the 5th. This is a free event for the entire family.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2016:** The following items were added to the calendar:
 - Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee annual visitation – November 30 – December 9, 2016.
 - I.Madonnari in Puerto Vallarta – November 18-21, 2016.
7. **OPEN WORLD PROGRAM:** Gil Garcia handed out the schedule for the Open World Program that will host six young professional Ukraine citizens from March 18-26, 2016. After a short discussion on a motion duly made by Beatriz Molina, seconded by Georgia Gastouniotis, and carried that on Sunday, March 20 each Santa Barbara Sister City Committee will make a presentation of their sister city program and bring a food dish to share from their respected countries, approved.
8. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin reported on the SoCal Sister Cities-NorCal Sister Cities recent meeting in Paso Robles. Key note speaker was Norm Mineta, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce. Also attending was SCI CEO Mary Kane and the SCI current President and Vice-President.

SCI is holding its 60th anniversary conference in Washington, D.C., July 13-16. Sister City Committees might consider nominating a member for the Circle of Distinguished Volunteers. Local Government Leadership Circle can also be considered. In honor of

SCI's 60th anniversary, on a motion duly made by Beatriz Molina, seconded by Georgia Gastouniotis, and carried that a Proclamation declaring July 15, 2016 "Sister Cities International Day", be requested by Mayor Schneider, approved.

9. **SCI'S 2016 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE:** Pat Fallin/Gil Garcia. On a motion duly made by George Lilly, seconded by Beatriz Molina, and carried, to sponsor the Young Artist Showcase with a contribution of \$50 from each Sister City Committee toward the second and third place winner of the contest and that each Sister City Committee will have one judge participate in the judging of the art work, approved. Checks should be payable to the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee.
10. **ANNUAL 9-11 CONCERT:** Takako Wakita announced that the 2016 event will take place on Sunday at 3:00 PM. All Sister Cities are encouraged to propose an entertainer.
11. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Jaime Sodusta:** No report made, due to Jaimie Sodusta's absence.
12. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Raul Navarro handed out a report highlighting the events the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee has been involved in since December 2015 to current.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly handed out a report highlighting the events the Santa Barbara/Kotor Sister City Committee is involved in. Prominent is the Water Polo exchange, Chef Exchange, and audition of eight musicians to the prestigious Music Academy of the West Fellows Program.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotis announced the Greek Independence Day celebration to be held at the Santa Barbara Greek Orthodox Event Center on March 26. This yearly event is open to the public.

Dingle, Ireland: Willy Quinn reported on the successful Santa Barbara International Film Festival presentation by the Dingle animation film association. A visitation is being planned in September to Dingle, Mayor Helene Schneider and Roger Duran (Santa Barbara International Film Festival Executive Director) are on the travel list. On March 9th a concert hosting D. Johnson, Celtic music performer, at the Arcada Bistro. On April 24 at 3:00 PM 100 years of the Irish rebellion will be celebrated. And, lastly don't forget the celebration of St. Patrick's Day on March 17th.

San Juan, Philippines: No Representative nor Alternate attended; no report was made.

Toba, Japan: No Representative nor Alternate attended; no report was made.

Weihai, China: No Representative nor Alternate attended; no report was made.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Correa de Garcia, Secretary