

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, May 4, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at 12:07 PM.

2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, chairperson; Beatriz Molina, City-at-Large; Raul Navarro, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Willy Quinn, Dingle, Ireland; Jaimie Sodusta, Alternate, San Juan; and Gary Maxwell, Alternate, Toba.

Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, City Representative; Pat Fallin, SCI Representative; and Gil Garcia, SoCal Representative

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Raul Navarro, and seconded by Beatriz Molina, and carried, the minutes of the meeting held March 2, 2016, were approved.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made:

- Gil and Marti Garcia are going to visit Toba from May 15 through May 17.
- The Annual Advisory Groups Workshop will be held on May 26, 2016, at 4:30 pm at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center, all Board members are encouraged to attend.
- The Annual Reports from each Sister City Committee are due to Takako Wakita by June 10, 2016.
- David Zamichow will be the new Kotor, Montenegro, alternate.
- Margaret Saavedra will be the new Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, representative.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2016:** The calendar was reviewed.

7. **OPEN WORLD PROGRAM:** Gil Garcia reported that the Open World Program was very successful. The folks that attended from the Ukraine were very impressed with this area and grateful to be here. They were also impressed with the Sister Cities Board's Representatives that attended the lunch and would like to have a Sister City relationship with Odessa and Santa Barbara. They especially liked meeting the Santa Barbara City Council Members, and going to the Santa Barbara Zoo and Lotus land. Gil hopes to have this event again next year at the same time and thanked the Sister Cities Board for their participation.

8. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** As a reminder, SCI is holding its 60th anniversary conference in Washington, D.C., July 13-16. Pat Fallin also reported that the So Cal meeting will be this Saturday in Anaheim and hopes some board members can attend. Gil Garcia will be going off the So Cal Board as President at this meeting; and Pat thanked Gil for his time on the So Cal Board, he brought people together but is now termed out. Gil also suggested that it would be nice to have a regional So Cal

meeting in Santa Barbara; one will be held in Ventura in either August or November and he hopes the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board members will attend.

Pat announced that she is now the local coordinator for J1 Visas. Anyone that wants a J1 Visa to come to Santa Barbara to attend school, should contact Pat. This is for high school students and will be for the entire school year.

9. **SCI'S 2016 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE:** Pat Fallin/Gil Garcia. Pat and Gil announced that this event was successful and the winner was Kiera Meany; her artwork was sent to SCI. Each Sister City committee donated \$50. The artwork was showcased in the Heritage Oak Bank, where it is a bit difficult as it has to be set up after the bank closes and the time is such that no students were able to attend. It was suggested that next year we could have a different venue and possibly time so that the students could attend with their families. Both Pat and Gil thank the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee for putting this together.
10. **ANNUAL 9-11 CONCERT:** Takako Wakita announced that the 2016 event will take place on Sunday, September 11, at 3:00 PM, at the Faulkner Gallery in the Central Library. All Sister Cities Committee members are encouraged to attend. Takako has some musicians lined up, including some high school students performing. If anyone has other ideas, please let Takako know.
11. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Jaime Sodusta:** Jaime announced that he is still working on this and does have a DVD. He is very busy but will continue to try to get it done.
12. **PARTICIPATION IN THE TV 3 PROGRAM “WHAT IS RIGHT IN SANTA BARBARA”:** Raul Navarro has been talking to John Palminteri, Senior Reporter, from KEYT 3 Television Channel. John’s program “What is right in Santa Barbara” has two minute segments on local happenings; Raul made a motion to have the Sister Cities Program on this segment, it was seconded by Willy Quinn. There was some discussion that this is a great news story and a way to get the Sister Cities Program information out to our community; it was also suggested to give John the Annual Report and have Takako Wakita and Raul Navarro meet with John Palminteri. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board.
13. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Raul Navarro, Representative, reported that he is trying to get more exposure for the Sister Cities Board and Committees and will be bringing more information to the Board about the possibility of becoming involved with the Unity Shoppe. New President Margaret Saavedra handed out a report highlighting the events the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee has been involved in since

March 2016. Some of the highlights included: a report made to their Committee by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department on the training provided to Puerto Vallarta and surrounding cities as part of the Law Enforcement Exchange; four members names were submitted for distinguished recognition as Distinguished Volunteers and one for Government Leadership Circle to SCI; and they are enlisting food vendors for the PV booths during Old Spanish Days for fundraising efforts.

Kotor, Montenegro: No representative nor alternate attended the meeting; however, David Zamichow (a Committee member) made a verbal report and handed out a written report highlighting the events the Santa Barbara/Kotor Sister City Committee is involved in. Prominent is the Culinary Academy with a photograph of three students that came home with a Bronze medal from the Biser Mora (the Pearl of the Sea Competition) at the International Culinary Festival on the Croatian Island Brac. Their Water Polo team will visit Santa Barbara in June to train, and six musicians auditioned in Kotor for a fellows program at the Music Academy of the West. A fund raising event will be held on August 18, in Kotor, for the Goran Milic Culinary Academy at the Institute for Children With Disabilities in Kotor.

Patras, Greece: No representative nor alternate attended; no report was made.

Dingle, Ireland: Willy Quinn, Representative, reported that there will be a Santa Barbara/Dingle Sister City Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 17, at 6 pm. Also a trip is planned to go to Dingle on September 19 – more information will be given out later.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaimie Sodusta, Alternate, reported that the Committee is working on the Annual Filipino Friendship Day being held at the Elks Lodge. All Board members and alternates are invited to attend. It was also announced that the Santa Barbara/San Juan Sister City Committee now has six Presidents rotating in a year; they are as follows: January/February—Jonas de Leon; March/April—Jemmi Irabon; May/June—Madeline Reneau; July/August—Virgie Horstman; September/October—Alex Tang; November/December—Albe Dumlao. Madeline Reneau attended this Board meeting.

Toba, Japan: Gary Maxwell, Alternate, reported that a student exchange with Junior High students here and to Toba on July 29. The students will need to fill out an application and must be 13, 14, or 15 years old. On May 21 and 22 there will be a bonsai show at the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens, it is free to members, and a cup of green tea will be included. The 50th Anniversary will have several celebrations; the delegation will be here from October 18 through October 21. On October 19 the following events will be happening: at 10 am there will be a Cherry Blossom Tree planted and dedicated at Alice Keck Park Memorial Gardens; at 3 pm a ceremony in the

Mural Room of the Courthouse; and at 5 pm a dinner at the University Club. These events are open to all the Sister City Board members.

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

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary