

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, September 7, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at 12:01 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, chairperson; Beatriz Molina, City-at-Large; Margaret Saavedra, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Jaimie Sodusta, Alternate, San Juan; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Peter Haslund, Weihai, China; George Lilly, Kotor Montenegro; and Georgia Gastouniotis, Patras, Greece.

Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, City Representative; and Gil Garcia, SoCal Representative
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Georgia Gastouniotis, and seconded by Beatriz Molina, the minutes of the meeting held on July 6, 2016, were approved with the following corrections: a typo of Eliesa Bollinger's name (one "l" instead of two for Eliesa) and on item no. 14 the sentence "He suggested that each Sister City Committee give a donation of \$50 or \$100 from each committee; however, the Board proposed \$100 from each Committee and **"the Board"** would contribute \$100, then it would be a donation of \$800." – NOTE: "the Board" should be replaced with the name **Raul Navarro**
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made:
 - Gil Garcia announced that the theme for the Young Artists next year will be "We are Going Places." He asked that all Sister City Committees announce this at their meetings.
 - Linda Gunther announced that Bea Molina and Marti Correa de Garcia's terms are up at the end of December 2016; there will be interviews before the Mayor and Council in November and appointments made in December.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2016:** The calendar was reviewed.
7. **SISTER CITIES DAY PROCLAMATION – JULY 12, 2016:** The Mayor gave a proclamation for Sister Cities Day, and Jim Brock and Bea Molina from the Sister Cities Board attended and received the award; Pat Fallin from Sister Cities International, and Linda Gunther, City Staff member, also attended the Council meeting.
8. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Takako Wakita and Pat Fallin:** Takako Wakita, Marti Correa de Garcia, and Margaret Saavedra, from the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board attended the Sister Cities International 60th Anniversary Conference. Gil Garcia, from SoCal Board, also attended. There were approximately 500 attendees. The Puerto Vallarta/Santa Barbara Sister City Committee received an award and

Margaret Saavedra gave an acceptance speech. Awards for the 60th Anniversary of Circle of Distinguished volunteers were also presented to Takako Wakita, and five members of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee. The Youth Leadership group was very engaged and youth leaders are encouraged to attend next year's conference. Also, there was a huge reception at the Japanese Ambassador's residence and the Chinese embassy.

9. **SCI SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING – SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016:** The regional meeting was held in Ventura and the attendees included Margaret Saavedra, Takako Wakita, Marti Correa de Garcia from the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board as well as Gil Garcia, SoCal Sister Cities, and Linda Gunther, City Staff member. The board activities within the region were discussed and Ventura has a new sister city. A discussion was held regarding fund raising, and how a membership drive is organized. The Santa Monica Sister Cities president spoke about their funding. Takako Wakita did a presentation on the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Program and Margaret Saavedra talked about the Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities Program.
10. **ANNUAL REPORT:** Thank you for all of the reports; the Annual Report was submitted to the Mayor and Council.
11. **9-11 CONCERT – Takako Wakita:** 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 and to send out flyers to all their members. Takako has some musicians lined up, including the winner of the Teen star, 2016. Linda Mathews and Marti Correa de Garcia will be handing out the programs at the event.
12. **UNITED NATIONS DINNER – Takako Wakita:** A flyer will be sent out; please send to all your members. This will also be the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Santa Barbara/Toba Sister City relationship. There will be folks attending from Toba and Mayor Schneider will attend. Everyone was asked to call or email Bea Molina with their Sister City Committee's reservations. Also all were asked to provide some raffle prizes of at least \$10 in value.
13. **LIBRARY DISPLAY – SEPTEMBER 2016 – Takako Wakita:** All were asked to be at the Faulkner Gallery of the Central Library on August 31 at 5 pm with some items to be placed in the display case at the Central Library. These will be on display for the month of September and all have been encouraged to participate.
14. **UNITY SHOPPE DONATION – Takako Wakita:** As a reminder, Raul Navarro presented an idea to help our community by giving a donation to the Unity Shoppe during their Christmas fund drive in December. There was a discussion by the Board members and at the end of the discussion, George Lilly made a motion, and it was seconded by Linda

Mathews, that the Sister Cities Board and Committees do not make a donation to the Unity Shoppe during their Christmas drive in December; the motion carried on a 5-2 vote.

15. **PARTICIPATION IN THE TV 3 PROGRAM "WHAT IS RIGHT IN SANTA BARBARA"**: Takako Wakita is still trying to contact John Palminteri and will report on this at the next meeting.
16. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Jaime Sodusta**: Nothing to report.
17. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: (Limit 3 minutes each)**

Dingle, Ireland: No representative nor alternate attended; no report was made.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, reported that a delegation went to Kotor, with Mayor Helene Schneider, to meet with the new Mayor of Kotor, Aleksandar Stjepcevic. A plaque was presented to the Chef that was running the culinary school for the disabled folks. Three young chefs attended. George also shared photos taken of the trip to Kotor.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, reported that the Committee is planning a trip to Patras in September of 2017, as well as another event for early next year.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Margaret Saavedra, Representative, reported that Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee has had a very busy summer; including a trip by Margaret and Marti Correa de Garcia to the Annual SCI Conference. Some visitors from Puerto Vallarta came to Santa Barbara this summer. There was also be a fundraiser at the Chumash Casino and they made \$400 for the upcoming law enforcement visit of five or six officers to Puerto Vallarta from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office. The next meeting will be at the Mesa Café. On September 10 Taco cook-off at the Santa Barbara High School; and this Sister City Committee will be attending the 9-11 concert.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaimie Sodusta, Alternate, reported that the Committee is coordinating student exchanges.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews, Representative, encouraged all the Board members to attend the events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Santa Barbara/Toba Sister City relationship. There will be a planting of the Cherry Blossom tree in Alice Keck Park Memorial Gardens, a ceremony at the Mural Room of the Courthouse, and a dinner at the University Club. These events are open to all the Sister City Board members. The Toba/Santa Barbara student exchange was finished last month and was very successful.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that they are still in the process of reorganization. There was a visit by twelve officials from the Weihai city government; they could only be here for five days and were in Santa Barbra less than a day. They met with the Mayor and a few other City officials in the Council Chambers.

18. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary