

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at 12:10 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, chairperson; Beatriz Molina, City-at-Large; Jim Brock, Alternate, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Jaimie Sodusta, Alternate, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; and George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro.

Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, City Representative; and Pat Fallin, SCI Representative
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Bea Molina, and seconded by Linda Mathews, the minutes of the meeting held on September 7, 2016, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made:
 - Takako Wakita thanked Bea Molina for serving; this is her last meeting as she did not apply to the City Council for another term. Marti Correa de Garcia's term ends on December 31, 2016, as well; the Chair also thanked her for her service.
 - Linda Gunther announced that the applicants for the two terms now up for appointments by the City Council are Susan Kinnevy, Margaret Saavedra, and Raphael Vazquez.
 - Linda Gunther asked that each Sister City Committee send a list of the current members by the next meeting.
 - Takako Wakita mentioned that there was an inquiry from a city in Israel to become a Sister City; the policy was sent to the folks inquiring.
 - Takako Wakita announced that the Young Artists Showcase will be in April; there will be an item on the January agenda for decisions regarding this annual event.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Duane Felender, SMART (Training, Certification, Standby Medical Teams) spoke about attending one of the Sister City Committee meetings to teach CPR, which could save a life. It was suggested that the Board check out their website as it is very informative; this is a free course and very important to learn.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2016:** The calendar was reviewed and corrected.
7. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Pat Fallin:** SCI is holding an inaugural gala in Washington, D.C. on January 17, 2017; more information is on their website if you would like to attend. Pat Fallin is now able to get J1 Visas for high school students in order to enroll in school in the United States, at a reduced price.
8. **SCI SOCAL REGIONAL MEETING – Pat Fallin** The SCI SoCal Regional meeting will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2016, in Anaheim. The main speaker is a person from the insurance association on non-profits and what is needed for this insurance. SCI only has

travel and medical insurances. Since all States have different laws on insurance; this speaker will be able to let folks know California laws for non-profits.

9. **REPORT ON 9-11 CONCERT:** There were great performances but less audience this year. Unfortunately, The Independent and the Santa Barbara News-Press did not get the information in time to place it in their papers. We need to be sure to place the information in these two papers next year. Otherwise it was a good concert.
10. **REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS DINNER:** There were 165 people that attended our annual United Nations Dinner. It was a really good event and was very successful. The Toba guests were very impressed with our food, entertainment, and turn out and sent a thank you note. We needed more food as there were so many attendees. George Lilly donated the coffee and tea. Gil Garcia brought the flags; Marti Garcia has been keeping the flags but can no longer do this, Linda Mathews volunteered to keep the flags and poles in her garage. Jaimie took many pictures and sent them to the Board members. Entertainers were the Spirit of Fiesta and a Japanese dancer. The Board asked that a certificate saying thank you be sent by the Mayor. Takako Wakita will give the names of the entertainers to the Mayor's Office.
11. **REPORT ON LIBRARY DISPLAY – SEPTEMBER 2016 - Takako Wakita:** The Library display was nice but only four Sister City Committees took part this year. The next time we do this, all Sister City Committees should commit to participate.
12. **PARTICIPATION IN THE KEYT PROGRAM “WHAT IS RIGHT WITH SANTA BARBARA”** Takako Wakita met with John Palamaitari regarding this program. John told Takako that he does not choose what is on the program. It is very complicated and difficult, and not something we can do now. Bea Molina made a motion to drop this idea and it was seconded by George Lilly. Linda Mathews stated that we should pursue this opportunity; Bea made a motion, and it was seconded by George Lilly for Linda Mathews to contact the TV Santa Barbara to ask them for publicity for the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Program. This motion's vote was: four votes for this; one vote against it; and one abstaining.
13. **OPEN WORLD PROGRAM – Takako Wakita and Gil Garcia:** Gil Garcia was not able to attend this meeting; he is planning the Open World Program again in April of 2017. He will be working with the Ukraine's and plans to give us more details at our next meeting.
14. **PROGRAMS AND/OR EXCHANGES OF EACH COMMITTEE FOR 2017 – George Lilly:** The Board discussed the possible new proposal that all the Sister City Committees have a more solid program and exchanges than some of them now have. The Board acknowledged that the policy already in place for the Sister City Committees to follow to continue as a Sister City with the Santa Barbara Board, but believe that two of the Sister City committees are not following this policy. After much discussion, George made the

following motion and it was seconded by Bea Molina: In that we are expected to schedule meaningful programs or exchanges with our respective Sister Cities, each Sister City representative (or alternate) should come to the January Board Meeting with an outline of two or three meaningful programs or exchanges that they are committed to for 2017. Some more discussion took place and then the motion was voted on and passed with the following vote: Five approved the motion and one abstained.

15. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Jaime Sodusta**: Nothing to report.

16. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**: (Limit 3 minutes each)

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

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, reported that the Sister City Committee is making plans for 2017.

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

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Jim Brock, Alternate, reported that this Committee is meeting tonight and working on plans for next year.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaimie Sodusta, Alternate, reported that the Committee is working on plans for next year.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews, Representative, reported on the events that took place during the 50-year celebration with Toba. It was a wonderful event and many thanks to the City of Santa Barbara for their help.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary