

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, November 1, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at noon.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Margaret Saavedra, City-at-Large; Pat Fallin, Representative, Dingle, Ireland; Peter Haslund, Representative, Weihai, China; George Lilly, Representative, Kotor, Montenegro; Albe Dumlao, Representative, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Representative, Toba, Japan; Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, Patras, Greece; and Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, City Representative and Jaimie Sodusta, Alternate, San Juan, Philippines
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Gil Garcia, and seconded by Pat Fallin, the minutes of the meeting held on September 6, 2017, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: The following announcements were made:
 - Takako Wakita announced that the Art Showcase will be in Santa Barbara for the month of February 2018, it will be on the January agenda for more discussion.
 - George Lilly, Representative, Kotor, Montenegro, announced that there will be auditions in November at the Music Academy of the West for approximately 2,000 folks; he is willing to share with the other sister city committees how to get a program like this in their sister city.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2017**: The calendar was reviewed and corrected.
7. **REPORT ON 9-11 CONT HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**: Takako Wakita reported that it was a great concert with 150 attendees; very well done. The musicians were wonderful; the United Nations Representative Barbara Gaughen-Muller spoke, the Mayor spoke and introduced Councilmember Bendy White, and Peter Haslund spoke. Takako announced that there were some expenses and that the piano was donated by the Santa Barbara Music Club.
8. **REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS DINNER HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017**: The dinner was very successful; a full house – 160 people attended. The dance group performance was excellent. Everyone worked very hard and there will be more information on the January agenda. The San Juan delegation made the party. Four came from San Juan, Philippines and spoke to the guests; with a total of 30 people from the San Juan Sister City Committee. There will be a discussion regarding the meals from each sister City Committee on another agenda. The World of Humanity requested \$160 for the Rehearsal Room – this was tabled to be discussed at the next meeting. Takako

mentioned that we usually do not pay for entertainment; however, we did pay for the Willy Quinn Band.

9. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Pat Fallin** A Hurricane Fund was set up and used a request for a Go Fund Me Account. The money will go to the Huston Sister Cities organization and will be given to the local people; this account has been closed. Garcia rescinded the motion made on September 8, 2017, and the Board decided not to donate to Sister Cities International for the hurricane disaster. Gil Garcia made a new motion (seconded by Peter Haslund) to form a subcommittee to discuss a policy on how to give money donations to assist in disasters related to our sister cities and other sister cities in the United States; this motion was approved by the Board. The members are: Peter Haslund, Georgia Gastouniotis, and Gil Garcia to be on the subcommittee and report back to the board. The fall meeting was in Annapolis, Maryland and they selected Roger-Mark De Souza as the new President and CEO. The next meeting will be in Colorado (near Denver) in August 2018.
10. **SCI'S SOCAL REGIONAL MEETING – Pat Fallin:** The next SoCal meeting will be on November 4 (Quarterly meeting) in Palm Desert. On March 3 the meeting will be in Culver City and the May 19 meeting will be in Bakersfield.
11. **DISCUSSION REGARDING MUKARANGE, RWANDA BECOMING A SISTER CITY:** The Board discussed this matter at length and had some questions regarding Mukarange. Some of the Committee Representatives did discuss this possible new sister city with their committees; Linda Mathews did ask her Toba Sister City Committee and stated “Our group’s consensus was that Mukarange had not yet demonstrated that the activities on both the Santa Barbara and the Rwanda side really constitute a true Sister City relationship, and wanted to learn more about what activities the Rwanda side is actually undertaking, and just how the United States side is constituted.” Pat Fallin asked Janet Reineck, the Representative for a possible Mukarange Sister City, “Is the Mayor elected or appointed? And if appointed is the Mayor appointed by the President of Rwanda?” Pat explained that because the Sister City International organization is based on Mayor to Mayor, this is important to know and to let our Mayor know. Janet responded that every system in this country elects their Mayor in different ways. The Board wants to know that we are going to have an active stable relationship with each city. George Lilly mentioned that a solid local government is important. After a long discussion, Takako Wakita (seconded by Pat Fallin) made a motion to have a subcommittee of this issue; the members are: Peter Haslund, Pat Fallin, David Zamichow and Gil Garcia. They have been asked to have a report to the Board at the January meeting.
12. **STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT – Peter Haslund:** Peter Haslund reported that there is buy in from three high schools of

international students. He is also contacting Santa Barbara City College. The Ambassadors sponsorship with a center for dialogue to make sure this is a good idea. Diplomacy is needed and to come to a resolution model diplomacy options are needed that do not exclude United Nations but do not end there. There is a need for more meetings with Linda Mathews, Gil Garcia, Albe Dumlao, and Pat Fallin (the ad hoc committee members). There will be a more detailed report back in January for the Board with a recommendation. The potential date of this conference is in May. The Ad Hoc committee hopes to get all the sister city committees involved.

13. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Patras/San Juan:** San Juan is working with Channel 18; this will be completed soon and on our website.

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

Dingle, Ireland: Pat Fallin, Representative, reported that on December 7 there will be an Irish program at the Granada with singing and dancing. Gil Garcia, a member of the Dingle Sister City Committee, is going to Dingle in April.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly reported that a presentation was made and a video sent out to all Sister Cities Board Members. This video lets you see and hear from the young chefs.

Patras, Greece: George Gastouniotis, Representative, reported that 15 delegates from Santa Barbara went to Patras and met with the Mayor and with the District Conference. It was a very positive experience.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, reported that dinner will be held tonight to celebrate the Day of the Dean. The Sister City Committee is planning on a trip to Puerto Vallarta in November.

San Juan, Philippines. Albe Dumlao, Representative, reported that the visit from the four delegates from San Juan was a very successful experience. They met with Mayor Schneider, and spoke at the City Council meeting, and met with the President of Santa Barbara City College, and spoke at the Board meeting.

Toba, Japan: No Representative nor Alternate was available for the report.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that there will be an interview with the Counsel General by telephone to discuss “The Future of US – China Relationships” event being held. Peter asks the Board members to join him as he welcomes panelists Mr. Sun Lushan, Consul-General of China and Dr. Benjamin Cohen as they discuss the complex relationship between the U.S. and China. The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Peter Haslund. Topics to be covered include: Role of our Sister Cities; Prospects for Economic Competition and Partnership; Potential for Political

Conflict and Cooperation; and Audience Questions and Answers. This will be held on Friday, November 3, 2017, from 5:30 pm to 8 pm at the Antioch Community Hall. It is being co-sponsored by Antioch MBA and Santa Barbara's Weihai Sister City Association.

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1; 20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary