

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at 12:05 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, chairperson; Margaret Saavedra, City at Large; Raphael Vazquez, City at Large; Willy Quinn, Dingle, Ireland; Gil Garcia, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Peter Haslund, Weihai, China; and George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro.

Other Attendees: Mayor Helene Schneider, Council Liaison; Linda Gunther, City Staff Representative; and Pat Fallin, SCI Representative
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Margaret Saavedra, and seconded by Raphael Vazquez, the minutes of the meeting held on January 4, 2017, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made:
 - Takako Wakita announced that Gil Garcia is now the Puerto Vallarta Representative.
 - Takako Wakita announced that San Juan, Philippines, is reorganizing.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Helene Schneider announced that a group is forming to travel to Dingle, Ireland, in April to attend the Spring Festival from April 27 through April 30, 2017. There are many folks getting together to make this visit to our Sister City happening. The attending delegates will participate in a parade and poetry readings and theater happenings at the Farleigh Festival. Please contact the Mayor, Scott Spaulding, or Willy Quinn if you are interested in going. A flyer will be sent out soon to the Sister Cities Board members.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2017:** The calendar was reviewed and corrected.
7. **UKRAINE OPEN WORLD 2017 VISITATION APRIL 28 TO MAY 6 – Gil Garcia.** Gil announced that he is putting packages together for activities during the Ukraine Open World visit. Their interest this year is in the non-profits throughout the community. They also would like to visit a local high school to see their multimedia program and an Elementary school to possibly get a pen pal exchange started. Gil will be contacting Santa Barbara City College and the Music Academy of the West to see if there is a possibility for a visit by the Ukrainians. An email will be sent to all Board members with more details. The Sister Cities Board will be meeting the Ukrainians on Sunday, April 30, at 2 pm at Gil Garcia's house (2215 Santa Barbara Street) for a reception. Each Sister City Committee is asked to bring a food dish from their Sister City country. There will be music provided for the reception from Willy Quinn and Bob Sadyv. Please plan to have at least one person from each Sister City Committee attend.

8. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Pat Fallin:** The Annual Sister Cities International Conference will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia, from July 13-15, 2017. There will be a Youth Summit at the conference; last year 150 young folks attended. For more information, please go to the Sister Cities International website.

The SoCal SCI meeting will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017, in Santa Clarita. The final art work winners from 2016 will be on display during this event. Both Pat Fallin and her colleague representing northern California will be at the event.

9. **SCI's 2017 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE – Pat Fallin/Gil Garcia:** The theme this year is We're Going Places. Margaret Saavedra, chair of this event, announced that it will be held at Rusty's Pizza at the beach on lower State Street, on Wednesday, April 12, from 5 pm to 7 pm. Each Sister City Committee should appoint one judge from their Committee. Peter Haslund will be contacting Dos Pueblos High School and Linda Mathews will contact San Marcos High School; Margaret has already contacted Santa Barbara High School to ask their art students to submit art work. The ages of the applicants are from 13 to 18 (both Junior and Senior High Schools). Margaret made a motion, and it was seconded by Linda Mathews, to hold the Young Artists Showcase Reception at Rusty's Pizza at the Beach. Another motion was made by Peter Haslund and seconded by Linda Mathews that each Sister City Committee donate \$50 to take care of second and third place winners, this was approved by the Board. The Heritage Oaks Bank will be donating the \$250 for the first place winner. Each Sister City Committee should send Takako Wakita the \$50 and make it out to the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board for these prizes.

10. **9-11 CONCERT – Takako Wakita:** The Annual 9-11 Concert will begin at 5:30 pm, and will be held at the Faulkner Gallery at the Central Library. Please let Takako know if you have any musicians in mind to perform and be sure to send at least one member from each Sister City Committee to attend.

11. **RUNITED NATIONS DINNER - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19 - Takako Wakita:** The Sister Cities Board will hold its annual United Nations Dinner on Thursday, October 19 at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion. In the past, Puerto Vallarta and Toba Sister City Committees have been doing the most for this huge party. All the Sister City Committees are encouraged to let Takako know of any entertainment for this event; last year Willy Quinn sang. Also all the Sister City Committees should commit to participate, including bringing food from each of the sister city's country, setting up, and cleaning-up.

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

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

Dingle, Ireland: Willy Quinn, Representative, reported that he will be emailing their supporters and will be holding a meeting in the next two weeks to regroup and choose officers; Missy Zeitsoff has resigned from the Dingle Sister City Committee. They are every excited that the Mayor and a group from Santa Barbara are going to be visiting Dingle in April.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, gave the Board a verbal and the following written report on their Sister City Committee's activities. Classical Music Auditions were held in Kotor in December/January for positions in the Music Academy of the West's prestigious Fellows Program. Four finalists were selected and their video auditions were submitted on February 5, 2017. The Academy will announce their selections in April and, if one of our musicians is accepted, they will be invited to attend the Summer Program from July 11 – August 5, 2017. Culinary Academy – Two talented students from our Culinary School arrived in Los Angeles on February 2nd for a three-week internship at Devinos Restaurant in Brentwood. They also spent a day in Santa Barbara where they visited the Santa Barbara City College Culinary School and four of our local restaurants. They returned to Kotor on February 4th where they are assured of employment when they graduate from the Institute for Children with Disabilities. Theatre – Several of our members enjoyed screening the film "The Black Pin" at the Santa Barbara Film Festival on February 13th. They also met with the producer/director Ivan Marinovic who was born and raised in Kotor. The film is a great depiction of life in Montenegro and will be shown to all our committee members later this year. Kotor Arts Festival – We were invited to have local musicians audition for the Kotor Arts Festival Orchestra, which will play at the Festival in Kotor for three weeks in July. We met with the Santa Barbara Symphony, the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, UCSB and SBCC, but they needed more lead time for such a commitment. We will begin planning for next year in October.

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

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, gave the Board the following oral and written report on their Sister City's activities. *The Sister City Committee attended a community downtown planning meeting in Puerto Vallarta. The Mayor of Puerto Vallarta, Arturo Davalos, welcomed all in attendance including architects, engineers, local property owners, store owners, and community leaders. Gil Garcia invited and presented Bettie Weiss, retired City of Santa Barbara Planner, and Paul Zkofsky, a California State Planner, to assist in preserving Puerto Vallarta's downtown areas (January 7, 2017). *The Committee is working with the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens (The Garden) to sponsor a map in Spanish for visitors to The Gardens. *Boca de Tomatian Health Clinic, just received an ambulance from a Rotary Club in Northern California. *A Bylaw modification was made to coincide with our fiscal year, January to

December. *The School of Squash exchange students were guest speakers at the January monthly general meeting. They sincerely appreciated the opportunity they had to participate in the squash exchange trip to Puerto Vallarta in November/December 2016. *A yearly visitation from our Puerto Vallarta friends is set for June 14-21, 2017. *The monthly general meeting will be held on March 1, 2017, and the guest speaker is Councilmember Bendy White to talk about the water situation in Santa Barbara and a Santa Barbara Superior Judge, Darrel Parker, to talk about serving on the Civil Grand Jury. Dinner is at the Mesa Café at 6:00 pm, and the cost is \$26; all are invited to attend.

San Juan, Philippines: No representative nor alternate attended; no report was made.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews, Representative, reported that the Toba Sister Committee is in the middle of recruiting for the student exchange. Please let Linda know if you have two boys and two girls that would be interested in this exchange. Five members attended an interesting talk at the Montecito Library regarding Woodblock Prints; Shirley Waxman's artwork. An exhibit that came to the Museum of fabric printing was also interesting.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that they had a very successful Chinese New Year celebration. Their annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 11; there will also be a retreat to determine the sense of direction for this organization. They are also planning a trip and more details will be coming. Some students will be coming to attend Santa Barbara City College and/or Antioch and will be staying at places that they will be renting.

18. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary