

## **Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

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; Margaret Saavedra, City-at-Large; Raphael Vazquez, City-at-Large; Pat Fallin, Representative, Dingle, Ireland; Peter Haslund, Representative, Weihai, China; George Lilly, Representative, Kotor, Montenegro; Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, Patras, Greece; and Jacqueline Duran, Alternate, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.  
  
Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, City Representative; and Pat Fallin, SCI Representative.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Margaret Saavedra, and seconded by Georgia Gastouniotis, the minutes of the meeting held on March 1, 2017, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made:
  - Takako Wakita announced that the Dingle Sister City Committee reorganized and the new President is Willy Quinn and Linda Mathews is the new Vice-President; the representative to the Board is Pat Fallin and the Alternate is Brian Slattery.
  - Takako Wakita also announced that the Weihai Sister City Committee has a new President – Anna Kwong and a new Vice President – Jill Stassinis. Peter Haslund will continue as the Representative to the Board and the Alternate is Anna Wong.
  - Linda Gunther announced that the Annual Advisory Group Workshop is being held on Thursday, May 25, at 5pm at the Chase Palm Recreation Center; all Board members are encouraged to attend.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Janet Reineck, Founder and Executive Director of the World Dance for Humanity spoke regarding a Sister City proposal of Mukarange, Rwanda. Ms. Reineck stated that a committee has been established and they are eager to find out more about the Sister City Program in Santa Barbara and how to become one of Santa Barbara's Sister cities.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2017:** The calendar was reviewed and corrected.
7. **MEETING BEING HELD ON JULY 5 CANCEL AND RESCHEDULE TO JULY 19** The Board discussed this change in dates of the next meeting and due to Board members being gone, agreed to cancel the July 5 meeting and hold a special meeting on July 19.
8. **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE.** Takako Wakita announced that the Annual Reports are due on June 10, 2017. She asked that all Committees get them in on time.

9. **UKRAINE OPEN WORLD 2017 VISITATION APRIL 28 TO MAY 6 – Gil Garcia** Gil Garcia did not attend the Board meeting; Takako Wakita attended and reported that this was very successful. The Ukraine Open World visitors had a very full schedule and was an older group than the visitors in the past. They were very interested in N.G.O.'s (Non-Governmental Organizations). The Sister Cities lunch meeting on April 30 was well received and the Ukrainians were very complimentary of the Board.

10. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Pat Fallin.** The Annual Sister Cities Conference will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia, from July 13-15, 2017.

The SoCal SCI meeting will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2017, in Santa Monica. This is a very good networking gathering. It is recommended that all Board members attend. The cost of the lunch is \$15.00.

11. **SCI'S 2017 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE REPORT – Margaret Saavedra.** On April 19, a reception and judging of the art work was held at Rusty's Pizza Parlor on lower State Street. Forty-five pieces of art work was received from several high schools as well as one from our Sister City – Toba, Japan. The judges were: Marilyn Hockhauser – Toba Sister City Committee; Eliesa Bollinger – Weihai Sister City Committee; and Thomas Van Stein – Dingle Sister City Committee. The winners were: First Place (\$250) - Maxwell Sagermann-Nimura, San Marcus High School; Second Place (\$150) – Grace Wenzel – Santa Barbara High School; and Third Place (\$100) – Jennifer Quito – Santa Barbara High School. Special thanks go to Pacific Premier Bank, providing funding for the first prize; and Morgan Stanley for underwriting the cost of the event at Rusty's Pizza Parlor. Mayor Helene Schneider announced the winners. The first-place art work and the Toba, Japan submittal were mailed to SCI in Washington, D.C. The national winners will be announced during the Annual SCI Conference in July. The Board discussed that next year we need to get the theme as early as possible and contact the high schools as soon as possible for the art work. Pat Fallin announced that she has reserved February 2018 to hold for the showcase of the art work for the ten national winners. The Board would like to showcase this art work at the Faulkner Gallery – East or West Room; or at City Hall in the main hallway; or at the Community Bank. Takako Wakita asked Linda Gunther to check out some of these ideas before the next meeting.

12. **9-11 CONCERT – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 – 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. Takako is asking the Board for any ideas on musicians. The raffle at the United Nations Dinner raised some money for this year's concert; and Peter Haslund made a motion to pay no more than \$600 to musicians and other expenses for the concert, this was seconded by Georgia Gastouniotis. Takako asked for help from the board on this year's concert. A flyer will be sent out to all Board members in August.

13. **UNITED 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 have been doing the most for this huge party. Also, Willy Quinn sang two years ago. All the Sister City Committees were encouraged to let Takako know of any entertainment for this event and that all the Sister City Committees contribute to the dinner, including set up, bringing food, and clean-up. The United Nations President, Barbara Gaughan-Muller will be attending the dinner.

14. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18** The Patras, Greece, the Sister City Committee, will be working on their filming after their trip to Greece in September.

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

**Dingle, Ireland**: Pat Fallin, Representative, reported that this Sister City Committee is back in business again. On March 7, there was a meeting and the following officers were elected: Willy Quinn, President; Linda Mathews, Vice-President; Pat Fallin, Secretary and Representative to the Board; Brian Slattery, Alternate to the Board. A general membership meeting was held on April 11 with 40 attendees. A delegation headed by Mayor Helene Schneider, went to Dingle in April for the Spring Festival. They are working on getting more members and a plan for the year ahead.

**Kotor, Montenegro**: George Lilly, Representative, announced that there is a new Mayor in Kotor: Valdimir Jokie. George made the following report on the Kotor Sister City Committee. \*On February 17, four musicians from Kotor submitted their audition video's for the Music Academy of the West Fellows Program. Although none were selected (there were 2,000 applicants for 135 positions) three were acknowledged for their talent and asked to audition again in 2008. \*Marina Milic, who supervised the auditions in Kotor, will be coming to Santa Barbara in July to visit the Music Academy and learn more about the Fellows Program in anticipation of greater involvement in 2008. \*Santa Barbara musicians were invited to audition for the Kotor Arts Festival Orchestra. The Orchestra will perform at the Kotor International Music Festival this summer. No one was selected but were well positioned for success in 2008. \*There will be a Fund Raising Concert at the Regent Porto Montenegro on July 31. This will be our second Fund Raising event in a country that historically funds organizations through the Government rather than through personal contributions. The proceeds will pay for exchanges between our Sister Cities in: Culinary, Music and Water Polo. \*Three of our students at our Culinary Academy in Kotor will travel to California to intern at Devino Restaurante and visit the Santa Barbara City College Culinary School for three weeks beginning on June 20. Upon completion of their Internship each will be placed in an entry level position in some of Montenegro's finest restaurants.

**Patras, Greece**: Georgia Gastouniotis, representative, discussed their upcoming trip to

visit Patras in September. Georgia invited all Board members to go too. The cost is all inclusive and a very good price.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** Jacqueline Duran, Alternate, gave a written and verbal report on their activities. \*March Dinner Meeting guest – Darrel E. Parker, Santa Barbara County Superior Court, spoke on the purpose and need for members on the Grand Jury. \*Changed our by-laws so that elected Board takes office on January 1, in keeping with our fiscal year. \*April dinner guest was Bendy White, Santa Barbara City Council Member, and gave an update on water and other local topics. \*Sister Cities International Art Show at Rusty’s Pizza Parlor was held on April 19, 2017. \*Open World Visitors from Ukraine arrived on April 28, 2017, and due to depart on May 6, 2017. They have visited many NGO’s non-governmental agencies: such as Natural History Museum, Botanic Garden Solvang, Chumash Casino, they met members of the Santa Barbara City Council to name a few. A potluck dinner was held at the home of Marti and Gil Garcia on Sunday, April 30. Members from several Sister City Committees attended and we enjoyed food from Ireland, Japan, Greece, and Mexico. Members of the local Ukrainian groups also provided a luncheon on Saturday, with Ukrainian dishes. \*The Puerto Vallarta/Santa Barbara Sister City Committee members are scheduled to visit Santa Barbara June 14-21.

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

**Toba, Japan:** No representative nor alternate attended the Board meeting; however, Takako Wakita, a member of the Toba Sister City Committee reported that the Student exchange program will begin July 26. This exchange has been ongoing for 24 years. On July 30, a welcome pool party will be held.

**Weihai, China:** Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that they had a very good, spirited meeting and discussed why they exist and why do we continue. The Committee elected new officers. Anna Wong, from Hong Kong, a former student of Peter’s is the new Alternate to the Board. They are working on the possibility of a student exchange next summer.

**16** **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary