

## Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board's Special Meeting of Friday, July 7, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Margaret Saavedra at noon.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Margaret Saavedra, City-at-Large; Pat Fallin, Representative, Dingle, Ireland; Peter Haslund, Representative, Weihai, China; David Zamichow, Representative, Kotor, Montenegro; Albe Dumlao, Representative, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Representative, Toba, Japan; and Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.  
  
Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, City Representative; and Pat Fallin, SCI Representative.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Pat Fallin, and seconded by Linda Mathews, the minutes of the meeting held on May 3, 2017, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: The following announcement was made:
  - Linda Gunther announced that the San Juan, Philippines Sister City Committee is revitalized and we welcome back Albe Dumlao, the Board's Representative.
  - Linda Gunther reminded the Board of the 9-11 Concert.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2017**: The calendar was reviewed and corrected.
7. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Pat Fallin** Pat Fallin announced that she is leaving on Tuesday to attend the Annual SCI Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Pat will return with several informational items that will be pertinent to our Sister Cities Board. On April 7, 2018, there is a transatlantic Sister Cities cruise celebration; if interested please see the website.
8. **SCI BALLOTS FOR SCI CONFERENCE IN JULY** A motion was made by David Zamichow and seconded by Linda Mathews, to have Pat Fallin vote on all four ballots on behalf of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board at the Annual SCI Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia; a vote was taken and it passed unanimously.
9. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING – Pat Fallin** Pat Fallin announced that on August 12 there will be a meeting in Newport Beach for Southern California Sister Cities Boards. This is a good opportunity to learn more about Sister Cities.
10. **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE** All Annual Reports were received; the Annual Report will be sent to the Mayor and Council and placed on the website in the next few weeks.

**11. YOUTH CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY – Peter Haslund**

Peter Haslund led a discussion on having a youth conference to focus on the basics of diplomacy and leadership. He suggested a one day conference in Santa Barbara. Each student attending would represent a Sister City country and discuss a particular issue. This could bring students together and also be combined with a luncheon from the community; the students would return to the conference in the afternoon. Pat Fallin suggested a diplomatic luncheon every month or so with the youth. After much discussion, a motion was made by David Zamichow and seconded by Gil Garcia, to have a Student Leadership and Diplomacy Ad Hoc Committee with Peter Haslund as the Chair and the following members: Pat Fallin, Gil Garcia, Linda Mathews and Albe Dumlao. This ad hoc committee will report back to the Board in four months – on November 1, 2017 – on their progress for the youth conference.

**12. PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – PATRAS AND SAN JUAN** This will be discussed at the next meeting both Sister City Committees attend.

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

**Dingle, Ireland:** Pat Fallin, Representative, reported that they are having a general membership meeting on July 12 at Mulligans at 6 pm. A report will be made on the possibility of generating interest in other trips to Dingle. This committee is reorganizing and we hold monthly board meetings and are planning general membership meetings. Gil Garcia and Linda Mathews are on the board too. We are planning a trip next year to Dingle with more notice. We also will have a raffle at the next meeting.

**Kotor, Montenegro:** David Zamichow, Alternate, announced that this past weekend a reception for friends of Kotor was held and they brought three students to learn how to be chefs and work over here; they spent a couple of weeks here. Next year the Water Polo team will be coming here. Also Marina is compiling information on the Musicians coming from Kotor.

**Patras, Greece:** Neither the Representative nor the Alternate attended the Board meeting; however, Gil Garcia, a member of this Sister City Committee, made the following report: The Committee is working on trying to get a Skype going with our School district and the school district in Patras. We are working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary to get the communication aspect going with students and citizens groups in Patras.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** Gil Garcia, Representative, reported on an outstanding visit with 14 delegates. There are some new places in town which this group were able to visit. This included visiting the Botanic Gardens and the new Children's Museum. Also, the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee was successful in getting equipment for

Puerto Vallarta's hospital. This was especially helpful with the Rehab centers; and was a partnership with the Rotary Club. A student is staying with Gil and Marti Garcia for about six months from Puerto Vallarta.

**San Juan, Philippines.** Albe Dumlao, Representative, announced that this Sister City Committee is still alive and is making a comeback. A letter was received from the Mayor of San Juan inviting Mayor Helene Schneider to a revolution party on August 30 in San Juan. The Director of a community college in San Juan is working on sending a student here if possible. Peter will assist Albe in how to get students here to attend Santa Barbara City College.

**Toba, Japan:** Linda Mathews, Representative, reported that the student exchange will be later this month; the students from Toba will be coming on July 26 and there will be a pool party on July 30 at Gary Maxwell's house. The Board is invited to attend as we are having a potluck lunch. The students from Santa Barbara will head back to Japan with the Toba students on August 2, 2017. The student exchange is 10 days long; and the students are Junior High School age. Several young musicians are planning to put on a concert when they arrive in Toba. In July, on the day of the Dead, there will be a celebration with a rehearsal on Friday, July 9 at 6:30 pm

**Weihai, China:** Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that they are planning a fall event that will focus on United States/China relations and will be inviting the other Sister Cities in Southern California with China Sister Cities to participate with us. We held the first Sister City meeting a few years ago and are planning this in the fall (October) input from the Board will be desirable. We will also invite someone from Weihai to participate.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary