

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of September 6, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Takaka Wakita at noon.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Takaka Wakita, Chair; Margaret Saavedra, City-at-Large; Raphael Vazquez, 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, Staff to Board and Secretary
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 with one correction: under Representative Reports: Toba, Japan: third sentence should be "The students from Toba, Japan will return to Toba on August 5, 2017, and the Santa Barbara students will go to Toba on August 7, 2017, and they return to Santa Barbara in ten days."
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: The following announcements were made:
 - Takako Wakita announced that she submitted an application to the central library for the display case; however, the main display case is not available next year.
 - Linda Gunther announced that the Board received a thank you note from Grace Wenzel, one of the art winners of the annual contest, who received a \$150 gift for her art work she submitted.
 - Linda Gunther announced that the next meeting will be held in the Human Resources Annex Conference room, due to the Election on November 7, 2017.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2017**: The calendar was reviewed and corrected.
7. **9-11 CONCERT – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**: The flyers are being sent around for the 9-11 concert. Linda Mathews will be singing with the Edelweiss Choir. We need two helpers to hand out programs; Albe Dumlao, Raphael Vazquez, and Peter Haslund volunteered – they must be there by 5:00 pm. The piano use will be donated by the music club. Peter will speak to honor with the demise of 2001 and about President Eisenhower. Mayor Schneider, Barbara Gaughen-Muller (United Nations), and Peter Haslund will be the three speakers.
8. **UNITED NATIONS DINNER – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017**. The Board discussed the price to charge folks that do not bring a dish to pass. In the past, the Board charged

\$15 per person if you do not bring food. A discussion was held and it was decided to continue this year with \$15 per person for folks attending without a dish to pass. A flyer will be made and needs to be sent to each of the committee members. All representatives for each committee is to take a reservation and find out if their members are bringing a salad, main dish or a side dish. All the committees have tasks for the dinner to be successful. The Board discussed having a Raffle – a donation to the Hurricane victims to be sent to SCI. A motion was made by Gil Garcia, and seconded by Peter Haslund, that a fund raiser for the SCI have the entire amount of proceeds; this was approved by the Board members. Also, a raffle for the 9-11 Concert being held next year is usually taken at this event. Gil Garcia made another motion, seconded by Pat Fallin, that all Committee representatives go back to their Committees and ask about giving the raffle money as a donation to SCI for the hurricane victims, this motion was also approved by the Board members; this will be on the agenda at the next meeting for more discussion and a vote. Takako announced that there will be dances from the World Dance members from our seven sister cities. Also, a professional singer will sing one song.

- 9. SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Pat Fallin** Pat Fallin announced that on April 7, 2018, there is a transatlantic Sister Cities cruise celebration at a cost of \$1,490 per person; if interested please see the website. Also, when going on trips to other countries, you can get medical and travel insurance through SCI. Each person should have this insurance. In February, the young artists exhibit from winners of the contest held last spring will be in Santa Barbara and exhibited by the Santa Barbara County Arts and Culture.
- 10. SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING – Pat Fallin** Pat Fallin announced that a group network of all the Sister Cities in Southern California began was held on August 12, 2017, in Newport Beach. Fourteen cities were represented. Five attended from Santa Barbara. The next meeting will be in Palm Desert on November 4, 2017. There will be a reception and dinner the night before. These are very informative meetings and Pat urges all Board members and their committees to attend if possible.
- 11. PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – PATRAS AND SAN JUAN** This will be discussed at the next meeting both Sister City Committees attend.
- 12. PROPOSED SISTER CITY – MUKARANGE, RWANDA – Janet Reineck** Janet Reineck gave a presentation on Mukarange, Rwanda, and why it would be a good Sister City Committee for the City of Santa Barbara. Janet stated that this proposal has been in the works since 2010. There is a non-profit that is the World Dance for Humanity program that promotes folks to get out of yourself and get into the world. This group has visited Mukarange a few times and are planning another trip next summer. The

Sister Cities Board members were given information about the group and their proposal. The Board will be discussing this at their next meeting on November 1, 2017.

13. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: (Limit 3 minutes each)

Dingle, Ireland: Pat Fallin, Representative, reported that that the Dingle Sister City Committee is doing well. The Committee meets every month and are now looking for some additional members. They will hold an event in October – Irish events to promote Irish culture in Santa Barbara. The Committees is also contacting the Rotary for assistance in this area.

Kotor, Montenegro: David Zamichow, Alternate, reported that they are working on a television documentary on a relationship to the two Sister Cities – Kotor and Santa Barbara and plan to skype the premiere on October 1, 2017.

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. Fourteen members of the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee are going to Patras on Monday and returning on September 23, 2017. This will strengthen the Sister City group in Patras and the Committee want to get more Rotary involved in Patras.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, reported that there will be a dinner meeting this evening at the Mesa Café. A nominating committee is being put together for the Committee's new board members to occur between December 30 to January 9. A law enforcement exchange is happening now with four law enforcement personnel from Puerto Vallarta now in Santa Barbara.

San Juan, Philippines. Albe Dumlao, Representative, reported that on October 25 through November 7 a group from San Juan will be visiting Santa Barbara and meeting with Mayor Schneider and Dr. Beebe at Santa Barbara City College. More details will be coming in the next few weeks.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews, Representative, reported that the student exchange program was very successful. More evens will be planned for the next few months.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that they are planning a seminar on November 23 at Antioch on the future of United States/China relationships. We will talk about those hosting a meeting by the five Sister Cities between China/and the United States in Southern California. Peter will send more information on the specifics soon.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary