

Minutes of the Special Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of January 3, 2018

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at 11:35 am.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Takako Wakita, Chair; Margaret Saavedra, City-at-Large; Pat Fallin, Representative, Dingle, Ireland; 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, Staff to Board and Acting Secretary
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Georgia Gastouniotis, and seconded by Pat Fallin, the minutes of the meeting held on November 1, 2017, were approved with the following corrections: Item No. 8, the second to last sentence, should be “The World Dance For Humanity....”; and Item No. 9, the next to last sentence, should be “The Board meeting.....”. and the last sentence should be “The next annual conference meeting....”
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: The following announcements were made:
 - Takako Wakita announced that the Central Library Display Case will be available In September 2018; it will be the second case not the large one.
 - Takako Wakita announced that the Annual United Nations dinner will not be held at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion Center since it is closed for a remodel; however, the dinner can be held at the Franklin Center on October 18, or we can try to get the Carrillo Recreation Center; most board members would like the Carrillo Recreation Center even if it is on a different date – Note: Sunday, October 21 would work well.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2017**: The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS DINNER EXPENSES – Takako Wakita**: The World Dance For Humanity asked for \$160 for the cost of renting a hall for them to practice for the United Nations Dinner entertainment. A motion was made by Takako Wakita and seconded by Pat Fallin to send this payment to the World Dance For Humanity; and was passed unanimously.
8. **YOUNG ARTISTS WINNERS EXHIBIT AT CITY HALL – FEBRUARY 2018**: Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, and Julia Rutherford Daly, Curator, Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture, gave the Board a presentation about their plans for the Young Artists Winners Exhibit at City Hall for the month of February. Sarah York Rubin suggested

that a reception be held on First Thursday (February 1, 2018) in the lobby of City Hall from 5 pm to 7 pm. There will be 31 exhibits and one Toba, Japan, entry. A subcommittee was formed with Pat Fallin, Margaret Saavedra, Takako Wakita and Linda Gunther to handle the reception and assist Sarah York Rubin; her intern will be at the site to assist as well. Sarah also suggested that this would be a good time to highlight the Sister Cities connection to the schools here in Santa Barbara. The cost of the shipping to the next city for the art work to be on display in Chandler, Arizona, will be approximately \$250. A motion was made by Pat Fallin to pay for the shipping of the art work to send to the next city in Chandler, Arizona at a cost of up to \$250; Georgia Gastouniotis, seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to pay the fee for shipping. The County Office of Arts and Culture will place this on their Arts Advisory Committee agenda on January 18, 2018; and place this on their web page and prepare a press release. It was suggested that all seven sister city committees encourage their members to attend and if they have a face book page to place this on it. A suggestion was also made that there be a reception in April 2018, to choose the artwork to submit for the 2018 Young Artists and Authors submittal to Washington, D.C. for the May 1, 2018 deadline for receipt of the work.

9. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Pat Fallin** Pat Fallin reported that the new CEO, Roger-Mark De Souza (he became the CEO on January 1, 2018) sent a letter promoting a petition on Global Outreach.
10. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING – Pat Fallin** Pat Fallin reported that Margaret Saavedra is a Board member of SoCal. The last meeting was held in Palm Desert in November; this was an outstanding meeting with a good youth program. In March, Pat stated that she will be giving more information on this program. A \$120,000 grant was received from Google. The website for SoCal is: SoCalSisterCities.org; you can place items on this website. The next meeting will be on Saturday, March 3, in Culver City.
11. **REPORT FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE RE MUKARANGE, RWANDA** Gil Garcia, a member of this Subcommittee (members are: Peter Haslund, Pat Fallin, Albe Dumlao, David Zamichow, and Gil Garcia) asked that this be continued to the March Board meeting, due to the absence of one of the members – Peter Haslund.
12. **REPORT FROM STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY AD HOC COMMITTEE** Gil Garcia (members of this ad hoc committee are: Peter Haslund, Linda Mathews, Gil Garcia, Albe Dumlao and Pat Fallin) reported that they had one meeting and Peter Haslund said that the High Schools are willing to cooperate. This will be continued to the March Board meeting when Peter can attend.
13. **REPORT FROM SUBCOMMITTEE RE POLICY ON DONATIONS FOR DISASTERS** Gil Garcia (members of the subcommittee are: Gil Garcia, Pat Fallin, Peter Haslund)

reported that they had a telephone meeting and all came to the same conclusion: To consider how a disaster affects our seven sister cities. Each disaster can be brought to the Board but should focus on our own Sister Cities; SoCal also follows this policy. It was also suggested that as much information as possible for each disaster be researched before bringing to the Board for a decision.

14. **OPEN WORLD PROGRAM FOR 2018 – Gil Garcia** Gil Garcia reported that LaCross, Wisconsin, closed down their part in the Open World Program this year, because the budget has been cut. Gil submitted his request to Congress for the Ukraine and hopes to host from May 9 to May 17, 2018. Gil will get the exact dates if it gets approved. The theme is on Child Welfare, including foster children and adoption. They will be targeting folks that work in that area. This will be asking that nonprofits be involved and he would like to focus on La Casa and CALM. Gil will get more information and this will be on the March Board agenda.
15. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY – Gil Garcia** Gil Garcia asked that the Board become a Chamber of Commerce member at a cost of \$400 per year. This offer means that all the Sister City Committees' activities will be promoted by the Chamber. Gil believes the Chamber needs to be more involved in the Sister City Program. This would be a good way to advertise what each Sister City Committee is offering. Gil will get more information and asked that each Sister City Committee Representative go back to their Committee and talk about it. It will be on the March agenda. Gil stated that a lot of Sister Cities are connected to their Chambers of Commerce. The cost would be about \$57.15 per Sister City Committee.
16. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY CHANNEL 18 – Patras/San Juan** The San Juan Sister City Committee has finalized their video; Linda Gunther will check with Government Access as they were going to place it on our website.
17. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

Dingle, Ireland: Pat Fallin, Representative, reported that that the Dingle Sister City Committee held an Irish Christmas on December 12, 2017, at the Granada Theater. It was held on the third night of the fire so it was not as well attended; however, it was an excellent performance. The Dingle Sister City Committee is holding a meeting next Tuesday. A trip is being planned in September. The Committee's board meets monthly and are planning for other events.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, reported on the Santa Barbara/Kotor Sister City Programs for 2018. **Culinary** – In January, ten students from Kotor's Institute for Children with Disabilities will attend a Saturday morning class for ten weeks to learn the basic skills necessary for entry level employment in some of Montenegro's Resorts and Restaurants. At the end of the course, three to four of the students will be invited

to the United States to intern at the Divino Restaurante for one to three months and attend class at Santa Barbara City College Culinary School followed by placement in Montenegro Resorts or restaurants. Water Polo – In July, 14 Santa Barbara Water Polo Players and their coaches will travel to Kotor to train and compete with some of the finest coaches and youth teams in Montenegro. Music – In January auditions will be held in Kotor for positions at the Music Academy of the West's prestigious Fellows Program. If any of these musicians are chosen, they will travel to Santa Barbara to participate in the eight-week program in July/August. In January, auditions will be held in Santa Barbara for positions in the Kotor Arts Festival Orchestra. If any of these musicians are chosen, they will travel to Kotor in July/August to perform at the Kotor Arts Summer Festival. Delegations – In 2018, we plan to invite the new Mayor of Kotor and his delegation to Santa Barbara to strengthen the cooperation between our Sister Cities. At the appropriate time, the new Mayor of Santa Barbara and her delegation will be invited to Kotor to strengthen the cooperation between our Sister Cities.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, reported that on March 24, they will be celebrating Greek Independence; she will be sending an email to all Board members to invite everyone. This will be held at the Santa Barbara winery tasting room, 202 Anacapa Street, with light music and dancing at a cost of \$40.00.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, reported that they had a successful trip to Puerto Vallarta with 40 from their committee going. The Committee is meeting tonight at the Mesa Café at 6 pm. They will be selecting new officers at the next meeting. They have an annual membership so please send in your checks if you are a member.

San Juan, Philippines. Albe Dumlao, Representative, reported that San Juan is sending an observation group to Santa Barbara to discuss disaster management and to observe our environmental management program. An exchange student program is being set up with Santa Barbara City College. A representative from San Juan is planning to attend the installation of the new Mayor – Cathy Murrillo.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews, Representative, invited all Board members to attend the New Year's Japanese dinner and cultural presentation. It will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018. The Shin-nen-kai dinner will be held at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, 1535 Santa Barbara Street. The Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage is presented by Dean Nevins. The cost is \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. Linda told the Board that after the United Nations dinner in October, she took all Sister City flags to her house to store. The Student exchange for 13, 14 and 15 year old kids will be for 10 days and it will be in July/August. Please encourage students in this age group to apply.

Weihai, China: No Representative nor Alternate attended; no report was made.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary