

Minutes of the Special Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of March 7, 2018

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at 12:11 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Takako Wakita, Chair; Margaret Saavedra, City-at-Large; Pat Fallin, Representative, Dingle, Ireland; George Lilly, Representative, Kotor, Montenegro; Linda Mathews, Representative, Toba, Japan; Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, Patras, Greece; and Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, Staff to Board
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Pat Fallin, and seconded by Georgia Gastouniotis, the minutes of the meeting held on January 3, 2018, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: The following announcements were made:
 - Takako Wakita announced that in the City Hall main hallway some of the gifts given to the city by our sister cities are on display.
 - Takako Wakita announced that the new Mayor is Cathy Murrillo and the two new Councilmembers are Kristen Sneddon and Eric Friedman.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2018**: The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **REPORT ON SCI's YOUNG ARTISTS WINNERS EXHIBIT & RECEPTION AT CITY HALL**: Takako Wakita reported that due to Pat Fallin's signing up with SCI to bring the exhibit to Santa Barbara we have been able to enjoy seeing this impressive exhibit here; thank you Pat! Also thanks go to Margaret Saavedra, who brought the food and drinks for the reception and Linda Gunther, who assisted. The Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture removed the exhibit and shipped it to the next stop on the tour – Chandler, Arizona. Takako will send the \$250 that the Board approved at their last meeting to them for the cost of shipping.
8. **SCI'S YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS CONTEST FOR 2018 – Margaret Saavedra**: Margaret reported that the deadline for this year's contest will be Friday, April 13 for the art work to be turned in. The party and judging will be held on Wednesday, April 18, at Rusty's Pizza, 5 to 7 pm. On Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 2 pm, the winning art work will be shown to the Santa Barbara City Council during Public Comment. The winning art work must be received by May 1, 2018, at Sister Cities International in Washington, D.C. Gil Garcia asked if the Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture could make a suggestion on how to encourage the high schools to participate. Jacqueline Duran will ask Morgan Stanley for money for a donation for expenses for the

reception. Margaret will get the plaques. Prizes are: First place - \$250, Second place - \$150, and third place - \$100. A motion was made and seconded, and passed, that the Board ask each of the seven Sister City Committees to donate \$50 for the art show. Each Sister City Committee is to choose one judge; so far we have one from the Toba Sister City Committee, and one from the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee. All Sister City Committees are asked to ask their Sister City to submit one entry. There will also be a sign to acknowledge donors. Margaret will make a flyer on the event.

9. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Pat Fallin** Pat Fallin reported that the new CEO, Roger-Mark De Souza is going on the cruise.
10. **SCI'S SOCAL REGIONAL MEETING – Pat Fallin** Pat Fallin reported on the following: (1) A joint meeting of SoCal and NorCal will be held in Bakersfield on May 18 and 19; a reception is planned for Friday night at the Japanese Gardens. (2) A scholarship for one student to attend the summit is available – May 1 is the deadline to receive their letters – this is going to be held at the University of Denver campus on August 2-4. (3) A great meeting was held in Culver City; two Mayors dropped in and a great youth program was held. (4) Pat is selling raffle tickets for a ticket to Japan – one ticket for \$10 and three for \$20 for SoCal.
11. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Patras/San Juan** Linda Gunther reported that the San Juan video is almost completed. She will forward it to all Board members when placed on our website.
12. **DISCUSSION ON MUKARANGE, RWANDA BECOMING A SISTER CITY** Gil Garcia, a member of the Subcommittee (members are: Peter Haslund, Pat Fallin, Albe Dumlaio, David Zamichow, and Gil Garcia) reported that the subcommittee did not meet, except by emails and telephone, and four of the five members do not believe that Mukarange meets our City's criteria. Linda Mathews said that the Toba Sister Committee could not figure out how they plan to operate on both sides of the program; they felt that the Mukarange Committee did not come up with a solid plan on both sides that could qualify. Gil Garcia, (also a member of Rotary) said "we are very happy with what that group is doing with Rotary and how they applied it." After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously that Mukarange, Rwanda, not be recommended to the Santa Barbara City Council to become a Santa Barbara Sister City.
13. **STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT** This was postponed to the May meeting.
14. **OPEN WORLD PROGRAM FOR 2018 – Gil Garcia** Gil Garcia reported that the Open World Program (folks coming from the Ukraine) will be arriving on Friday, May 11 and leaving on Saturday, May 19. The theme is on Child Welfare, including foster children and adoption. They will be targeting folks that work in that area. A motion was made

and seconded, and carried, that each Sister City Committee should attend and bring a dish to pass that is from your Sister City to the luncheon that will be held on Sunday, May 13, at 2:00 pm at Gil Garcia's house.

15. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY – Gil Garcia** Questions were answered that were asked about at the January meeting and discussed; the Chamber is very inclusive. Toba, Puerto Vallarta, and Dingle Sister City Committee's Representatives discussed this with their Sister City Committees (all representatives were asked to take this to their Committees) and all were very interested in joining the Chamber of Commerce. A motion was made, seconded and carried to join the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce as a group and that the membership fee of \$410 be divided among the seven Sister City Committees.
16. **BUDGET FOR 9-11 CONCERT – Takako Wakita** The musicians that performed in 2017 were paid \$450 (\$150 each) and \$150 was used for other expenses (piano moving, room setting and printing); a motion for the 2018 9-11 Concert was made and seconded for same amount of \$600 was approved for 2018.
17. **UNITED NATIONS DINNER - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018, CARRILLO RECREATION CENTER – Takako Wakita** Takako asked if all representative were okay with the new site for the annual United Nations dinner (the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion is not available this year due to an extensive remodel). All Board members said they are fine with using this facility and having the event on a Sunday instead of the usual Thursday.
18. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

Dingle, Ireland: Pat Fallin, Representative, reported that that the Dingle Sister City Committee recently held elections of its officers: Pat Fallin, President; Linda Mathews, Vice-President; Marti Garcia, Secretary; Tom McCool, Treasurer. They are working on their bi-laws and planning a trip to Dingle; the dates are September 5-20. A general membership meeting will be held at the end of the month.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, reported that due to the lack of time, he would ask that everyone look at their website – for up to date information:
<https://www.sbkotorsistercity.com/home.html>

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, reported that on March 24, at 6:00 pm, they will be celebrating Greek Independence Day; 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 for adults and \$20 for students. There will be appetizers, a program (the Mayor will be attending), and lots of Greek dancing.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, reported that they attended the United States/Mexico International Conference in Guadalajara, on the Mayor's Summit; it was the first time it was held in Mexico. Discussions were held on community teaching, economic development, and trade benefits. It was interesting and lots of fun. There was a full day of panels; and now many other States in Mexico want to have it in each of their states. There were 1,300 people in attendance; and the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee received an award for their Citizen Program.

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

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews, Representative, reported on the student exchange. They are interviewing students that are 13, 14, and 15 years old; scholarships are available. The exchange is held 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 1:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary