

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Special Meeting of July 11, 2018

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at 12:03 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, Chair, County-at-Large; Margaret Saavedra, City-at-Large; Whitney Rush, City-at-Large, Pat Fallin, Representative, Dingle, Ireland; Albe Dumlao, Representative, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Representative, Toba, Japan; Peter Haslund, Representative, Weihai, China; and Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, Staff to Board
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Gil Garcia and seconded by Albe Dumlao, the minutes of the meeting held on May 2, 2018, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made:
 - Takako Wakita announced that Whitney Rush was appointed as a City-at-Large appointee by the Santa Barbara City Council. Whitney gave a few remarks about her background to the Board.
 - Takako Wakita announced that the Central Library Display Case (middle one) has been reserved for the month of September 2018; Margaret Saavedra will be contacting all the representatives of each of the seven sister city committees to ask them to bring items representing their city. The representative needs to meet on August 31, 2018, with their items at the Library to place them on display.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Gail Tennen, of the Santa Barbara Jewish Federation, spoke regarding a possible new sister city in Mitzpe Ramon, Israel.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2018:** The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTATION:** Kenneth Oplinger, President/CEO of the Chamber of the Santa Barbara Region, gave a presentation regarding our membership in the Chamber. He gave an overview of the breakfast meetings and the full regular meetings that all members of the Sister Cities Board and their Committees are invited to attend. If there are any questions, please contact Stephanie at the Chamber of Commerce.
8. **REPORT ON OPEN WORLD PROGRAM FOR 2018 – Gil Garcia:** Gil Garcia reported that the folks that came were from the Ukraine. They heard presentations about foster care which were very interesting; all enjoyed and learned from these presentations. A specific theme on foster care was educational as well as nice presentations. On Sunday, May 13, there was a reception at Gil's house; representatives from the Sister Cities of Patras, Dingle, Puerto Vallarta and Toba attended. They all even learned how to dance.

9. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Pat Fallin:** Pat Fallin reported that the SCI Conference will be held from August 2 to August 4 in Denver, Colorado. A summit next year will be focused on China. This President is more focused on each country. Former Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider is running for office in SCI this year.
10. **SCI'S SOCAL REGIONAL MEETING – Pat Fallin:** Pat Fallin reported that the SoCal meeting will be held on September 15 in Laguna Beach. There will be a statewide organization of members. On May 18 and 19 there was a joint meeting with SoCal and NorCal; Marti Garcia won box seats for a Dodger game from the raffle at that meeting.
11. **SCI BALLOTS FOR SCI CONFERENCE IN AUGUST.** For the election at the SCI Conference, the City of Santa Barbara's Sister Cities Board has four votes. Peter Haslund made a motion, seconded by Linda Mathews, that Gil Garcia, Marti Garcia, Pat Fallin, and Helene Schneider, be named as voting delegates for the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board.
12. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Patras:** Tabled.
13. **STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY'S AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:** Peter Haslund reported that he has contacted the editor for a global dialog. Peter hopes to have the involvement of all of the High Schools in the local area. A Mission Statement is being considered and would be consistent for what we do at our Sister Cities Board meetings. Chair Takako Wakita asked that Peter please have a meeting with the ad-hoc committee. The members of this ad hoc committee are: Peter Haslund (Chair), Pat Fallin, Albe Dumlao, Linda Mathews, and Gil Garcia.
14. **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 "9-11" CONCERT – FAULKNER GALLERY:** Takako Wakita announced that she has the venue (Faulkner Gallery of the Central Library) and the performers for the Annual "9-11" Concert. We need to have assistants to pass out the programs at 5:30 pm – Whitney Rush and Linda Gunther volunteered to be the ushers. All Committee representatives should plan to attend and encourage the other members of their committees to attend also.
15. **ADD TO GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING A NEW SISTER CITY:** A discussion was held on adding a new item to our policy under "Characteristics of Proposed City." On Item No. 7, a suggestion was made to add: "The proposed city must not be in a country where we currently have a Sister City." After much discussion, Gil Garcia made a motion, seconded by Albe Dumlao, that the Board adopt a new number 7 to our policy stating: "The proposed City must not be in a country where we currently have a sister city." This was passed unanimously.
16. **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FROM JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018:** Takako Wakita reported that the annual reports have been late. Also, there was no annual report from Weihai; Peter Haslund said it would be sent to Takako soon.

16. **UNITED NATIONS DINNER – Takako Wakita** Takako Wakita announced that the United Nations Annual Dinner is being held on Sunday, October 21, at the Carrillo Recreation Center. A flyer will be made and sent out. In the past, Puerto Vallarta has prepared the room; Toba has cleaned up; and Kotor has provided the coffee and tea. This year, we need two folks to help from the following Sister City Committees: Dingle, Patras, Weihai, and San Juan; please ask members of your committee to help. Peter Haslund will ask Barbara Gaughen-Muller, President of the United Nations Association in Santa Barbara, for more assistance. Takako suggested that the Board pays \$50 for a cleaning person and \$50 to a person to organize the food. Also volunteers are needed to help set up. Albe Dumlao volunteered to be in charge of flowers. Linda Mathews made a motion, this was seconded by Albe Dumlao, to hire one person to be responsible for food organization and set up. So far the Entertainment is as follows: Patras children's dance group and the San Juan group playing saxophone.

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

Dingle, Ireland: Pat Fallin, Representative, announced that the general membership get together will be held on July 18 from 5:30 to 8 pm at Pilgrim Terrace. There will be Irish stew with lamb and Irish entertainment. The cost is \$30 for members and \$40 for nonmembers. A trip to Dingle (from September 5 to September 20) is being planned. This will include Dublin, Scotland, Wales, and London. Marti Garcia is organizing the trip. So far 23 people have signed up. The Board members planning to go are: Gil Garcia, Margaret Saavedra, and Linda Mathews.

Kotor, Montenegro: Neither the Representative nor the Alternate attended the Board meeting.

Patras, Greece: Neither the Representative nor the Alternate attended the Board meeting.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, reported that the annual visitation is coming up and everyone is invited to attend the events. They are also having the First Annual Raffle for the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee. The first prize is an all-expense paid seven-day Puerto Vallarta Vacation for two and includes: round-trip airfare (LAX to PV), lodging, and dinners. Second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. The raffle ticket cost is \$100 for one ticket. The proceeds will benefit medical projects in Puerto Vallarta. The drawing will be the night of October 3, 2018, at the Mesa Café. You do not need to be present to win.

San Juan, Philippines. Albe Dumlao, Representative, reported that the Exchange Program has been delayed. On June 23, Filipino/American Friendship Day was celebrated. On June 24 there was a water festival. In October, the San Juan Disaster Team Program will be visiting and are planning to attend the United Nations Day Dinner.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews, Representative, reported on the student exchange program. There will be a celebration of the 25 years of the Student Exchange Program with Toba, Japan. This is also a reunion for the nearly 100 Santa Barbara students who have been Student Ambassadors over that time. They and their families host students from Toba for ten days during Fiesta, and then fly to Toba to spend ten days with their homestay families during the Obon festival. This will be held on Friday, August 10, 7 to 9:30 pm at the Unitarian Society, 1535 Santa Barbara Street. We will enjoy a live SKYPE with our Toba homestay families and counterparts during the party. Expect music, testimonies, video memories, and long distance fun. This is a free event and potluck. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. Hors d'oeuvres, drinks and cake will be provided. Please RSVP to Sally Hamilton, sallyhamilton@gmail.com, or call 805-962-1402.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that the Annual Leadership met in September for the purpose of reviewing the purpose of the Committee and create a master plan for the coming year and also will discuss a trip to Weihai as part of their renewal program.

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary