

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Special Meeting of September 12, 2018

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at noon.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Takako Wakita, Chair, County-at-Large; Whitney Rush, City-at-Large, Pat Fallin, Representative, Dingle, Ireland; Gary Maxwell, Alternate, Toba, Japan; David Zamichow, Alternate, Kotor, Montenegro; and Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, Patras, Greece.

Other Attendees: Jill Stassinis, New Alternate for Weihai, China; and Linda Gunther, Staff to Board
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Pat Fallin and seconded by Whitney Rush, the minutes of the meeting held on July 11, 2018, were approved as amended by changing the following under the second announcement "Central Library Display Case (remove middle and add "middle sized one") has been reserved....".
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: The following announcements were made:
 - Takako Wakita announced that the Library Display Case was set up by Margaret Saavedra, Jill Stassinis, and Albe Dumlao; she thanked them for doing such a great job on the display case.
 - Takako Wakita announced that she is going to receive an award from the Japanese government called "The Foreign Minister's Commendation Award" on October 17, 2018, at the official residence of the Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles and would like to invite all Board members to attend.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2018**: The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Pat Fallin**: Pat Fallin reported that the SCI Conference held on August 2 to August 4 in Denver, Colorado, was one of the best ones she had ever attended. Besides Pat both former Mayor Helene Schneider (on the Dingle Sister City Committee) and Gil Garcia and Marti Garcia (on the Puerto Vallarta and Dingle Sister City Committees) attended the conference. Helene Schneider was elected to the Sister Cities International Board, and to the Executive Committee and is the Chair of the Human Resources Committee. Pat also passed out information about the Chapter Risk Assessment and insurance that was discussed at the 2018 Annual Conference; this insurance is through NFP Property & Casualty Services, Inc., SisterCityPAL@nfp.com, telephone number is 760-325-7400.

8. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING – Pat Fallin:** Pat Fallin reported that the SoCal meeting will be held in Los Angeles, in conjunction with the Fall Leadership Meeting on November 10, 2018.
9. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – PATRAS –** Linda Gunther will work with Georgia Gastouniotis and TV Channel 18 to proceed with this project.
10. **STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY'S AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:** Tabled.
11. **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 to each representative on the Board and asks that they forward it to all members. Takako reminded everyone that this is a Sister Cities Board's fundraising event; and for this year we will continue this as we always have done it in the past. If Board members would like a change, that can be made before next year's event. The dinner is at 6 pm and everyone is to bring a dish to pass made for ten people, if someone does not bring a dish then the cost is \$15.00. The entertainment begins at 7:30 pm and will have Greek children and a singer from City College. We need a new MC as Mark Hamilton is not available this year. Linda Mathews will handle the raffle this year with Jill Stassinis assisting. Takako will be sending out a list of assignments to each Sister City Committee representative – please be sure to have others from your committee helping at this event. The food preparation helper cost is \$75 and the kitchen cleaning helper cost is \$50.
12. **REPORT ON "9-11 CONCERT" HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2018:** Takako Wakita thanked Whitney Rush for her help with publicity this year. It was not as well attended as it was last year and not many from the Santa Barbara Sister City Committees attended. Gil Rosas did not accept any money for his entertainment at the concert; Takako will write a thank you note. The total amount for the concert was \$436.91. Takako asked the Board if they still want to hold this annual event since not many members attended; this will be discussed again next spring.
13. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

Dingle, Ireland: Pat Fallin, Representative, reported that there are now 53 paid members in the Dingle Sister City Committee. A delegation is now visiting in Dingle – 29 members – they spent four days in Dingle and met with the Mayor of County Kerry, the Rotary Club of Dingle and the Chamber of Commerce. There was a successful general membership meeting in July at Pilgrim Terrace with entertainment by Russ Deberty – The Quiet Man Fiddles and storytelling and Irish Music; everyone enjoyed the entertainment and the delicious dinner.

Kotor, Montenegro: David Zamichow, Alternate, reported on the following. (1) The Kotor Sister City Committee sent 15 water polo players and three coaches from Santa Barbara's Premier Club to Kotor in August to train and compete with some of the best coaches and players in the world. While the primary focus of the trip was water polo most of the team had never been out of the country and had a life changing experience. The team consisted of the best players from all Santa Barbara high schools and ranged in age from 15 to 18. (2) In August the Sister City Committee had their first collaboration with the UCSB music department. Sara Bashore, an exceptionally talented violinist and graduate student at UCSB, traveled to Kotor to perform at the Kotor Arts International Music Festival. She performed in a trio with two young musicians from Kotor and was well received. She met some of the finest musicians in Europe in what many consider the best festival in all of Europe. If all goes well the two musicians she performed with will come to Santa Barbara next year to perform at UCSB and the Music Academy of the West. (3) Look for some photos and additional information on both exchanges in our next newsletter.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, reported that they raised money and made a donation for some hospital equipment to the Children's Hospital in Patras. They are planning a get together after the summer to begin planning their next event to be held on March 24 (Greek Independence Day).

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: No Representative nor Alternate attended the meeting.

San Juan, Philippines. No Representative nor Alternate attended the meeting.

Toba, Japan: Gary Maxwell, Alternate, reported that they just completed 25 years of student exchanges successfully. On July 26 here were four students from Toba for ten days visiting Santa Barbara and a pool party was held on July 29. There was also a special event held at the Unitarian Society and they used Skype to talk to the students from Santa Barbara that were in Toba, Japan. The next event they will be holding will be their annual New Year's Festival in January or February.

Weihai, China: No Representative nor Alternate attended the meeting; however, Jill Stassinis, the new Alternate that will be replacing Anna Kwong, reported that they participated in the Library Display Case and they are planning a new fall program.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary