

## **Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of November 7, 2018**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at 12:02pm.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Takako Wakita, Chair, County-at-Large; Whitney Rush, City-at-Large, Brian Slattery, Alternate, Dingle, Ireland; Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Albe Dumlao, Representative, San Juan, Philippines; George Lilly, Representative, Kotor, Montenegro; and Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, Patras, Greece.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Gil Garcia and seconded by Whitney Rush, the minutes of the special meeting held on September 12, 2018, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: The following announcements were made:
  - Takako Wakita announced the passing of Linda Gunther's husband, Frank Gunther, and circulated a card for all present to be signed.
  - Takako Wakita thanked those that set up the Library Display Case - Margaret Saavedra, Jill Stassinis, and Albe Dumlao.
  - Takako Wakita thanked those that attended the reception for her 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. Those in attendance included Pat Fallin, Linda Gunther, George Lilly, Linda Mathews, and Georgia Gastouniotis. A newspaper article about the event was passed around.
  - Takako Wakita announced Whitney Rush as new board secretary.
  - Takako Wakita announced this as her final board meeting and will not be seeking a seat after her term is over on December 31, 2018. Santa Barbara's City Council will decide a new member by the end of the year.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2018**: The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS DINNER – OCTOBER 21, 2018-** Takako Wakita reviewed the UN Dinner held at the Carrillo Recreation Center on October 21, 2018 with approximately 100 people in attendance. The dinner was successful with enough food, nice decorations and enjoyable performances. Hiring a food coordinator was key to the smooth execution. The raffle was a success with many prizes and a great number of ticket sales especially thanks to Jill Stassinis's help. UN was happy with the event and the group discussed that the venue preference was for the Cabrillo Pavilion as it felt more intimate.
8. **RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM MITZPE RAMON, ISRAEL – Gail Tennen** Gail Tennen, co-chair of the Board of Trustees for the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara

presented Mitzpe Ramon's official proposal. She showed the similarities between Mitzpe Ramon and Santa Barbara including the cities shared tourism appeal as an active destination for wine, olive oil and a new spa and hotel that opened in the city recently. A sub-committee is already established and the mayor of Mitzpe Ramon has appointed a liaison. Video and photos will be sent from the federation to Takako to share with the rest of the board. Gil Garcia asks about the surrounding area and encourage regional connections particularly since the city of Mitzpe Ramon is very small in population. Next steps were outlined for representatives to bring the proposal to their committees and discuss. Sub-committee was created with Whitney Rush, Gil Garcia, Georgia Gastouniotis, and George Lilly.

9. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT** – Pat Fallin was not present. Pat was attending the SCI gathering in Los Angeles.
10. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING** – Pat Fallin was not present. Pat was attending the SCI gathering in Los Angeles.
11. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – PATRAS** – Georgia Gastouniotis scheduled TV Channel 18 to proceed with filming on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Santa Barbara Greek Orthodox Church.
12. **STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY'S AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:** Tabled.
13. **2019 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE (YAAS)** – 2019's theme is 'Global Citizens – Resilient Communities.' Gil Garcia and others present would like clarification of this theme. The items are due to SCI on April 1, 2019. A reception will be held before then for the judging. This will be decided at the January Board meeting.
14. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

**Dingle, Ireland:** Brian Slattery, Alternate, reported they continue to hold monthly and quarterly meetings. The delegation that visited Dingle – 29 members – had a very successful trip and met with the mayor and explored the greater region to deepen connections at the County level. The next membership meeting is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> and a presentation of the trip to Dingle was schedule for Pilgrim Terrace.

**Patras, Greece:** Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, reported their next meeting will be November 15<sup>th</sup>. They meet every other month and have scheduled their fundraising event for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Santa Barbara Winery. They are starting to plan the next trip to Greece in two years. They continue to support the children's hospital in Patras.

**San Juan, Philippines.** Albe Dumlao, Representative, reported they had a successful Halloween party on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and were preparing for their Thanksgiving dinner on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The dinner will be a suggestion donation of \$12 per person. The city of

San Juan has elections coming up in December and they are hopeful that a new mayor will bring greater connections. They are thinking of planning a trip in 2019.

**Toba, Japan:** No Representative nor Alternate attended the meeting; however Takako Wakita reported that they are thinking of another trip to Toba in October/November 2019.

**Kotor, Montenegro:** David Zamichow, Alternate, reported on the following. (1) 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. (2) 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.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** Gil Garcia, Representative, reported (1) that they are working on a webpage makeover. (2) Their Dia de los Muertes event is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> at Pilgrim Terrace. (3) He attended a workshop around 'Think Globally, Thrive Locally' that focused on working together and the importance of partnerships between similar regional groups for Sister Cities. (4) The 11<sup>th</sup> annual chalk festival was happening in PV along with the 15<sup>th</sup> annual law enforcement exchange. (5) They continue to support the rehabilitation clinic in PV. (6) Their holiday dinner is scheduled for December 16, at Pilgrim Terrace.

**Weihai, China:** No Representative nor Alternate attended the meeting.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Rush, Secretary