

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of March 6, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Fallin at noon.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Pat Fallin, Chair, County-at-Large; Margaret Saavedra, Vice-Chair, City-at-Large; Whitney Rush, Secretary, City-at-Large; Brian Slattery, Representative, Dingle, Ireland; George Lilly, Representative, Kotor, Montenegro; Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta; Albe Dumlao, Representative, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Representative, Toba, Japan; and Peter Haslund, Representative, Weihai, China.

Other Attendees: Cathy Murillo, Mayor, Council Liaison; Linda Gunther, Staff to Board

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Albe Dumlao and seconded by George Lilly, the minutes of the meeting held on January 9, 2019, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: None
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: Miguel Arana with United Peru Association states that the city of Miraflores in Peru is interested in becoming a Sister City. He has received the guidelines and Chair Pat Fallin will follow up with him on next steps.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2019**: Margaret Saavedra adds that the Young Artists and Authors Showcase artwork deadline is March 15, 2019; a reception for the young artists will be held on March 20, 2019 at Pilgrim Terrace from 5-7pm.

Linda Mathews adds that from July 26 - August 16, 2019 will be the Toba City - Santa Barbara student exchange.

7. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE YEARLY DUES**: A discussion on the Chamber's dues was held. Linda Mathews stated that she attended a "coffee and connections" event as part of the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber said they would like to know what visitors Sister Cities are expecting to visit Santa Barbara and would be happy to receive requests of in-kind donations. They are also interested in connecting with the families involved in Sister City Committees exchanges. The Chamber would like a short presentation from each city, which Linda Mathews suggests we can play Channel 18 when it is completed. Linda Mathews highlights the Chamber as a great source of information, contacts and event calendars and the Chamber prefers to deal with each Sister City Committee on an individual basis. Margaret Saavedra asks where to obtain the information packet. Linda says all the information is available on the Chamber website at <https://www.sbchamber.org>. The membership fees are \$65.82 for each Sister City Committee. On a motion duly made by Margaret Saavedra and seconded by Brian Slattery, the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce fees were approved. Pat Fallin will collect the fee from each Sister City Committee.

8. **9/11 CONCERT FOR 2019** Linda Gunther reported that she reserved the Faulkner Gallery for the 9/11 Concert. Pat Fallin asks for music contacts and Gil Garcia suggested that the City sponsor musicians. George Lilly asks how popular the event has been in the past and Linda Gunther confirms it is very popular and has filled the Faulkner Gallery in years past. Peter Haslund suggests making the birthday of Sister Cities a priority and move away from the memorial aspect. Pat Fallin provides history of 9/11 for both Sister Cities International and in memorializing the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. George Lilly points out that the anniversary of both events are not mutually exclusive. Pat Fallin and Margaret Saavedra discuss honoring First Responders. Gil Garcia asks to reframe the event into a world peace focus. Linda Mathews says originally there were no speeches or discussion but with time, the event can move more towards the anniversary of Sister Cities. The discussion will be continued at future meetings.
9. **UNITED NATIONS DINNER FOR 2019** Linda Gunther also reported that she reserved the Carrillo Recreation Center for Sunday, October 20, 2019 for the United Nations Dinner. The preferred Cabrillo Recreation Arts Pavilion is not sure they will be ready and open by October. Peter Haslund suggests a partnership between the United Nations and Sister Cities International. Peter Haslund says Barbara Gaughen-Muller, President of United Nations Santa Barbara has expressed interest in a partnership dinner. Peter Haslund also recommends an event committee so not all the details are left to Pat Fallin. Linda Mathews says we need a concrete offer from the United Nations before we proceed. Pat Fallin will approach Barbara Gaughen-Muller about a partnership.
10. **APPOINT A SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW BOARD'S POLICY ON NEW SISTER CITIES:** A motion was made by Peter Haslund and seconded by Gil Garcia to form a Subcommittee to review the Board's current guidelines on new Sister Cities; the motion passed unanimously. Gil Garcia, Whitney Rush, Pat Fallin and Peter Haslund agree to join the subcommittee. Georgia Gastouniotis is not present but will also be invited to join. Pat Fallin will call the first meeting.
11. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin reports that SCI is shifting to youth focus and how to bring younger people into the program. Programming to attract a younger audience, more exchanges and creation of sister school are all being considered. The annual conference will be held in Houston, Texas on July 16-19, 2019. Gil Garcia and Pat Fallin will attend. Gil Garcia speaks to the youth conference that is held in conjunction with the annual conference at Rice University. Linda Mathews and George Lily were interested and ask how the event is advertised and how young people in their cities can be involved. Gil Garcia says that SCI SoCal also offers scholarships for the youth summit.
12. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING:** Margaret Saavedra attended the January Board Retreat where they discussed future planning, and a focus on youth both in government

and social programs. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8th in Laguna Beach, California. Gil Garcia, and Pat Fallin will attend. Pat Fallin has recommended August 17th as a date for the Santa Barbara SoCal meeting.

13. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18:** There is a delay in the release of the final Sister City Committee video; it should be placed on the City's website soon.
14. **2019 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE (YAAS):** Margaret Saavedra shared that the 2019's theme for YAAS is 'Global Citizens – Resilient Communities.' The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2019. Albe Dumlao says artwork is coming from the Philippines for this event. Margaret Saavedra needs easels and judges for the event on March 20th at Pilgrim Terrace.
15. **PLANNING FOR 2019 EVENTS FOR BOARD:** Pat Fallin would like the Board to work on how to be more prominent in Santa Barbara. The Board should explore how to get more connected with different community groups, e.g. Kotor and Puerto Vallarta with the Music Academy and Rotary. Also, the board can see how to work more with international students at the various colleges. Peter Haslund invited everyone to his monthly TV program called Global Dialogue on the 3rd Tuesday of every month as one way to be more involved. Pat Fallin and the board will continue to explore new ways of connecting with local groups.
16. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

Dingle, Ireland: Brian Slattery, Representative, reported that they continue to hold monthly and quarterly meetings and are financially viable. The next membership meeting is scheduled for March 13th at 5:30 pm at Pilgrim Terrace with an Irish dance troop and St. Patrick's Day dinner.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, reported as follows:

Culinary Academy – Chef Bojan Kuvarcic from the Hotel Cataro will be teaching at the Institute for Children with Disabilities in March. Ivana Miljanic will take on the responsibility of monitoring the progress of graduates of our Culinary Academy to see that they are gainfully employed and successful ambassadors of the Academy.

Classical Music – Deanne Scott has agreed to Chair our Classical Music Committee and her report is below.

Lenka Petrovic, Serbia - First Prize Winner of the 20th International Harp Contest in Israel in 2018, will perform at the Opening Concert of the 21st Harp Contest in Israel, on October 4, 2021.

2019 Activities

Music Academy of the West - Fellows Program July/August 2019

Auditions: Dušan Obrenović, violinist; Sara Bayshore, violinist
Kotor Art International Music Festival July/August 2019
Performing: Katrina Agate, cellist
UCSB Kotor Arts Trio October 2019
Performing: Marina Mikiic, piano, Nela Draskovic Oboe, Sara Bayshore,
Violin

Water Polo – We are exploring the possibility of having Dusan Matkovic, a gifted student and outstanding water polo player spend his senior year of High School in Santa Barbara.

Other – Judy Risling Reinke has been appointed as US Ambassador to Montenegro. In that her statement to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs committed her to “build on her predecessor’s effective legacy of people to people engagement” we are hopeful that we can develop a strong working relationship with the Ambassador.

Patras, Greece: No Representative nor Alternate attended the meeting. However Margaret Saavedra passed out a flyer and reminded the Board of Patras’s fundraiser on March 23rd.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, reported as follows:

February Dinner – Guest speaker Barry Cappello, former attorney for the City of Santa Barbara gave a presentation on the history and beginnings of our relationship with Puerto Vallarta. Mr. Cappello went with City Councilmembers in 1972 to establish our Sister City relationship.

March Dinner – March 6 – We’re mixing it up; it will be at the Celito banquet Room at Viva Restaurant. Our guest speaker is Mariela Marin, MA, MFT who is an adjunct professor for the Latino Mental Health Concentration in the Masters of Clinical Psychology at Antioch University. She will speak about “Multicultural Competence: Why it's Good for All of Us.”

- Puerto Vallarta Committee Selects New President: The new President is Ismael Perez, a long time Puerto Vallarta member and friend of many Santa Barbara Sister City members.
- Change of Puerto Vallarta Visitation Date: Our group will visit Puerto Vallarta January 14th to 23rd, 2020.
- Fundraiser for 2019: Group trip to Cuba. May 26th to June 2nd. This trip is open to all people, however, they must become a Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City member.

WORKING TOGETHER IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER LOCAL SANTA BARBARA ORGANIZATIONS

Law Enforcement Exchange: Supported the Puerto Vallarta Police Academy with computers for its training classes. Eleven computers funded by:

- Our Sister City Committee
- Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee
- Rotary Club of Santa Barbara North
- Rotary Club of Santa Barbara North Charitable Foundation
- Sister City member Roberto Najera

Volcanes Community: The Sunrise Rotary Club of Santa Barbara applied for a Rotary District Grant to build a sidewalk around Los Volcanes School in Puerto Vallarta. The Rotary Club of Santa Barbara North contributed the club's allocation of district funds to complete the project.

We continue to support:

1. Boca Medical Clinic – Medical supplies purchased recently
2. Volcanes Sewing School
3. Law Enforcement Exchange
4. Magisterio Hostel
5. Santa Barbara-Puerto Vallarta Rehabilitation Clinic – two club members pitched in and purchased gym equipment, replacing an old one.
6. I. Madonnari Festival – in Santa Barbara and Puerto Vallarta

San Juan, Philippines: Albe Dumlaog, Representative, reported they will have an Easter Sunday Picnic on April 21st at Tuckers Grove, the cost is \$12, and all are invited. They are interested in the Dolphin project and would like to learn more about having a dolphin statue installed in San Juan. A delegation will be coming over in October 2019.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews, Representative, reported they are recruiting for their annual student exchange. Full and partial scholarships are available, they are especially looking for girls that are interested. Students must be between 13-15 years old. Toba students will arrive July 26th and will be hosted for 10 days before Santa Barbara students go to Toba. Linda Mathews is attending the Japan/Texas Sister City meeting and says the foreign ministry is more interested in regional cities like Santa Barbara. Toba is hosting a Cherry Blossom Picnic at Alice Keck Park Memorial Gardens in the next 2-3 weeks when the cherry blossoms are in bloom. The picnic is BYOB and will be held at the three planted cherry blossom trees in the park.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that their next meeting is Monday, March 11, 2019 and they are preparing for their summer programming. They are interested in recapturing their student program, not a student exchange.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Rush, Secretary