

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of May 1, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Fallin at 12:08 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Pat Fallin, Chair, County-at-Large; Margaret Saavedra, Vice-Chair, City-at-Large; Whitney Rush, Secretary, City-at-Large; Maureen McFadden, Alternate, Dingle, Ireland; George Lilly, Representative, Kotor, Montenegro; Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, Patras, Greece; Limara Delicano, Alternate, San Juan, Philippines; Peter Haslund, Representative, Weihai, China;

Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, City Staff to Board
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Peter Haslund and seconded by Georgia Gastouniotis, the minutes of the meeting held on March 6, 2019, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: Linda Gunther requests each city to submit their annual reports to Linda by the end of May beginning of June so they can be compiled by June 27, 2019.

Pat Fallin reported on the “coffee and connections event” put on by the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Santa Barbara and encourage all to attend future Chamber events.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2019**: Margaret Saavedra adds that a group from the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee will be going to Cuba on May 22 - June 2, 2019; in addition the annual trip to Puerto Vallarta will be January 14 - 23, 2020. Pat Fallin reminds the Board of the Sister Cities International Conference in Houston from July 16 - 19, 2019. Linda Gunther asks about the SoCal August meeting to be tentatively held in Santa Barbara; Pat Fallin responded that the location is not yet approved by the SoCal group and that a decision will hopefully be reached during SoCal’s May 4th meeting.
7. **9/11 CONCERT FOR 2019** Linda Gunther reserved the Faulkner Gallery for the 9/11 Concert. Pat Fallin recommends a 5:30 pm start time and requests ideas for performers. Performers can be offered a small stipend but preferably would volunteer their time. Peter Haslund offers to reach out to the Santa Barbara City College choirs. Pat Fallin asks Linda about reserving a piano for the event. Brian Slattery volunteers to help secure performers. Whitney Rush volunteers to help with announcing and promoting the events in media outlets. Georgia Gastouniotis volunteers to reach out to the San Marcos High School choir. On a motion duly made by Georgia Gastouniotis and seconded by Brian Slattery, the Board unanimously agrees to continue with the 9/11 concert as planned.

8. **UNITED NATIONS DINNER FOR 2019** Linda Gunther 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. The Board agrees the kitchen and food set-up worked well at the Carrillo Recreation Center in 2018. Pat Fallin continues to follow up with Barbara Gaughen-Muller, President of the United Nations Santa Barbara about partnering for the dinner.
9. **REPORT FROM SUBCOMMITTEE: REVIEW BOARD'S POLICY ON NEW SISTER CITIES:** The Subcommittee continues to meet and Pat Fallin says the plan is to present a report at July's meeting.
10. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT** – Pat Fallin reports that the annual conference will be held in Houston, Texas on July 16-19, 2019. Gil Garcia, Marti Correa, Helene Schneider, and Pat Fallin will attend. Delegates for the conference will be elected on July 1, 2019.
11. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING** – Margaret Saavedra missed the meeting on March 8th in Laguna Beach, California. The next meeting is May 4th in Santa Monica where the topic of global citizenship will be discussed.
12. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18** – The video for Patras, Greece is done and available online. Representative Georgia Gastouniotis's old email and phone were part of the movie. Linda Gunther agrees to update her contact information. This Item now has all seven Sister City Committees online.
13. **2019 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE (YAAS)** – Margaret Saavedra reported the showcase on March 15, 2019 was a successful event. The Santa Barbara High School submitted art, but there is a need for more art from the community in future years. It is important to get the word out early and hopefully get teachers involved in the process. The three winners from the event were written in the Santa Barbara student newspaper and Noozhawk. Three pieces from the Philippines were presented as part of the event. Winners still need to receive prizes. Puerto Vallarta donated \$250 for the top prize. An additional \$250 (\$150 for second place and \$100 for third place) needs to be raised. Jacquelyn Duran with Morgan Stanley donated the reception's food and wine. Margaret's expenses for printing and advertisements was \$60. The remaining \$250 prize money is divided amongst the seven Sister City Committees; an additional \$35 per committee is to be given to Pat Fallin. Each Committee currently owes \$35 (prize money) plus \$66 for Chamber expenses (see item 14) for a total of \$101 owed by each Sister City Committee.

14. **REPORT OF PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES SANTA BARBARA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** Pat Fallin reminds the Board that each city owes \$66 for their member dues for the Chamber of Commerce. Kotor and Patras have currently paid. Margaret Saavedra says she attended one of the Chamber events and won one of their contests. She highly recommends the Chamber events. The Chamber's next meeting is June 27.

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

Dingle, Ireland: Brian Slattery, Representative, reported the following.

- 1) The Santa Barbara/Dingle Sister City Committee held a successful General Membership meeting at Pilgrim Terrace on March 13, 2019. A delicious traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, soda bread and carrot cake was served. After dinner we were entertained by the Irish dance troupe Ceili Rua from Los Angeles featuring traditional Irish dances in various styles: solos, group dances and social dances.
- 2) The Committee continues to explore the possibility of expanding our Sister City relationship beyond just Dingle to the whole of Kerry County for additional contacts within the County government and a larger population base as we feel the current situation is limited to just a few individuals in Dingle.
- 3) The Committee remains fiscally solvent and meets monthly at Pilgrim Terrace on the first Tuesday. We did experience some drop in membership numbers so far for 2019 primarily due to members that joined for the Ireland trip last year but have not renewed yet for this year. This will be a point for further discussion at our next Committee meeting.
- 4) Our next general meeting is being planned for July with details to follow.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, reported on the following.

Classical Music – On April 27, 2019, there was a Master Class with Yo-Yo Ma and UCSB students including Katrina agate, the cellist who will be performing at the Kotor Arts music festival in Montenegro on full scholarship.

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 – They continue to work to have greater contact with Judy Risling Reinke, the US Ambassador to Montenegro. She was invited to 2019's music festival this summer in Montenegro.

Patras, Greece: Representative Georgia Gastouniotis reported that their next meeting will be held on May 16, 2019, at Pilgrim Terrace. They continue to explore middle school and high school Skype and/or exchange opportunities. In March they had a Greek Independence Day celebration at Santa Barbara Winery. All proceeds from the event went towards the children's hospital in Patras.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: No Representative nor Alternate attended the Board meeting. However, Margaret Saavedra, a member of the Sister City Committee, reported that the next meeting will be May 1, 2019 at Pilgrim Terrace. She also gave the following information.

- 1) Marti Correa reported that the fundraising trip to Cuba is now set. The trip takes place from May 26 to June 2nd and thus far, 12 people have signed up to go.
- 2) AYDÉ JUÁREZ GUADALUPE of Guadalajara Jalisco won the top artist honors at the I Madonnari Festival held in Puerto Vallarta recently. As her reward, she is being sponsored to participate in the I Madonnari Festival of Santa Barbara which will be held during Memorial Day weekend at the Mission.
- 3) The I. Madonnari Festival to be held in Santa Barbara over Memorial Day weekend will have a square offered to the Young Artists winner's showcase.

San Juan, Philippines. Limara Delicano, Alternate, reported that they are focused on increasing membership. Their Easter celebration was a success and their next event is June 22, 2019, at 6 pm at the Elks Club in celebration of the Filipino/American Friendship Day.

Toba, Japan: No representative nor alternate was present.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that China would like one American to study Chinese in Weihai for 10 months at Shandong University. Weihai is building a Memorial hall and is interested in artifacts from Santa Barbara. The committee in Santa Barbara is planning to host a city-wide forum in July about dealing with China in the age of Trump. The consulate general from Los Angeles will be invited. The group is planning a trip to Weihai in October or November 2019.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Rush, Secretary