

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of July 3, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Fallin at 12:03 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; Brian Slattery, Representative, Dingle, Ireland; George Lilly, Representative, Kotor, Montenegro; Bessie Condos, Alternate, Patras, Greece; Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Limara Delicano, Alternate, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Matthews, Representative, Toba, Japan; and Peter Haslund, Representative, Weihai, China.

Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, Staff to Board

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Gil Garcia and seconded by George Lilly, the minutes of the meeting held on May 1, 2019, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: None.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2019**: Linda Matthews added Toba City's Welcome Pool Party on July 28, 2019 at noon for the exchange students coming from Toba to Santa Barbara.

Gil Garcia adds that the Puerto Vallarta delegates will arrive on July 4, 2019 and stay for seven days. A calendar of their events and hosts for the upcoming week was provided.

7. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING - VOTING DELEGATES** For the upcoming Sister Cities International Conference to be held in Houston, Texas, July 16-19, the Board must appoint the voting delegates. The meeting attendees are Gil Garcia, Marti Garcia, Helene Schneider, and Pat Fallin. On a motion duly made by Peter Haslund and seconded by Margaret Saavedra, and approved by the Board unanimously, the voting delegates for the annual meeting are all four attendees: Gil Garcia, Marti Garcia, Helene Schneider, and Pat Fallin.
8. **NON-DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT POLICY - Wendy Levy** Patricia and Christie, with the Human Resources Division of the City of Santa Barbara presented the City of Santa Barbara's Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Employee Complaint Procedure to the Board.
9. **9/11 CONCERT FOR 2019** Linda Gunther reserved the Faulkner Gallery for the 9/11 Concert. Pat Fallin confirms Santa Barbara's poet laureate will perform. The Fratelli singing group has been contacted and Brian Slattery is working to secure his band's performance. More information will be given at the next Board meeting.

10. **REGIONAL MEETING IN SANTA BARBARA FOR SOCAL** The SoCal Regional meeting has asked to have their meeting in Santa Barbara on the first Saturday in November (November 2nd). As host, our board would be asked to provide breakfast, a room for the meeting and arrange for lunch that would be paid for by the attendees. The meeting would be from about 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. On September 7th, SoCal will meet in San Diego and the agenda will be planned. Peter Haslund suggests City College as a venue with meeting space; he will inquire if it is available.
11. **UNITED NATIONS DINNER FOR 2019** Linda Gunther reserved the Carrillo Recreation Center for Sunday, October 20, 2019 for the United Nations Dinner. Pat Fallin continues to follow up with Barbara Gaughen-Muller, President of the United Nations Region in Santa Barbara about partnering for the dinner.
12. **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 September's meeting.
13. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT** – Pat Fallin reports 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. Gil Garcia was asked to present on the benefits of a partnership with rotary including how to connect with rotary in local cities and the availability of district and global grants through rotary.
14. **SCI'S SOCAL REGIONAL MEETING** – See item 10.
15. **YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE (YAAS) DATE AND THEME** – Nothing was reported at this time.
16. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

Dingle, Ireland: Brian Slattery, Representative, reported:

- 1) The Santa Barbara/Dingle Sister City Committee will hold their next General Membership meeting at Pilgrim Terrace on July 24, 2019.
- 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.
- 3) A new consul general for Ireland is opening in Los Angeles and the group has initiated contact.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, reported on the following and provided a handout. Santa Barbara/Kotor Sister City Committee.

- **Classical Music** – UCSB violinist Sara Bashore is performing at the 2019 KotorArt International Music Festival in Kotor. UCSB cellist Katrina Agate was selected to perform at the 2019 Kotor Art International Music Festival. She also attended the

UCSB Arts and Lectures master class with Yo-Yo Ma. Cellist Isak Haracic was chosen for the prestigious Music Academy of the West's Fellows program in 2013. Isak has performed with the Servian Symphony Orchestra as well as throughout Europe and Asia. Lenka Petrovic of Serbia was the first prize winner of the 20th International Harp Contest in Israel in 2018. She will perform at the Opening Concert of the 1st Harp Contest in Israel on October 4, 2021. Lenka was an alternate for the Music Academy of the West's Fellows Program in 2016.

- Two deaf students from Kotor were scheduled to intern at Davino restaurant in Los Angeles but the program was cancelled for 2019. Gil Garcia suggests partnering with Westmont. George Lilly is reaching out to SBCC to gauge their interest in the music academy programs. George Lilly will provide upcoming list of performances.

Patras, Greece: Bessie Condos, Alternate, reported that the rotary club in Patras has requested funding to build a reservoir. The Committee has made a financial contribution and work was slated to begin July 1, 2019. One thousand dollars was donated from the Patras Sister City Committee and another \$1,000 from our local rotary club.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, provided the calendar of events for the group of delegates coming from Puerto Vallarta to Santa Barbara July 4 -10, 2019. Fifteen delegates, including two council members were set to arrive and enjoy wine tours, delicious meals and an official meeting with Santa Barbara's mayor Cathy Murrillo.

San Juan, Philippines. Limara Delicano, Alternate, reported on their event on June 22, 2019, at the Elks Club in celebration of the Filipino/American Friendship Day. It was a great success and a scholarship was awarded to a local student.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews, Representative, reported that Toba was preparing for its student exchange. Students were set to arrive in Santa Barbara and participate in Fiesta, chocolate making, hiking and camping. Students from Santa Barbara will leave for Toba on August 7th. In late October there will be a delegation visit to Toba from approximately October 28 to November 8 or 9, 2019.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that the committee in Santa Barbara is planning to host a city-wide forum in August about dealing with China in the age of Trump. The group is planning a trip to Weihai in October or November 2019. There was also a change in leadership and Jill Stassinis is the new group president and George Ayoub, a professor at Antioch University, is the new Vice President.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Whitney Rush, Secretary