

## **Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of September 4, 2019**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Fallin at 11:58 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; Georgia Gastounitis, Representative, Patras, Greece; Limar Delicano, Alternate, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Representative, Toba, Japan; George Ayoub, Alternate, Weihai, China  
  
Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, Staff to Board
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Brian Slattery and seconded by Margaret Saavedra, the minutes of the meeting held on July 3, 2019, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Pat Fallin attended the Santa Barbara Chamber monthly breakfast held at the Zoo. Each member has one minute to talk about their organization and rotates to three different tables. Pat Fallin asked for additional board members to attend. Linda Mathews has also attended. The next one is October 24, 2019. There was discussion about a SCI pamphlet to pass out at such events.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Miguel Arana from Miraflores near Lima, Peru is interested in becoming a new Sister City. They are starting a nonprofit and their articles of incorporation are ready to go. Linda Gunther will add this potential Sister City request to the November agenda.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2019:** The Calendar was reviewed and approved. Brian Slattery adds that Dingle is planning an event, but the details are yet to be determined. Margaret Saavedra adds a request for more advance notice of events and delegation visits from all the Sister City Committees.
7. **9/11 CONCERT - FAULKNER GALLERY - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 5PM -** Pat Fallin confirms that former poet laureates will present and Brian Slattery and Greg Harrison will perform three songs. The event should be around one hour. Chairs will be set up and greeters are needed to be there by 5 p.m. for the show to start at 5:30 p.m. Pat Fallin passed out a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Brian Slattery confirms he will bring his own small amp and microphones. Pat Fallin will confirm that Barbara Gaughen-Muller, United Nations Representative will give a presentation.
8. **REGIONAL MEETING IN SANTA BARBARA FOR SOCAL - NOVEMBER 2 -** The hosting guidelines include setting up registration and sign-in, as well as providing a meeting space and continental breakfast. The lunch will be a no-host lunch with each participant

expecting to pay around \$15. Peter Haslund stated he will arrange a meeting space at SBCC. Pat Fallin passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet to assist on that day.

9. **UNITED NATIONS DINNER FOR 2019 - OCTOBER 20 @ CARRILLO RECREATION CENTER**

Linda Gunther reserved the Carrillo Recreation Center for Sunday, October 20, 2019 for the Annual United Nations Dinner. Pat Fallin requests entertainment options for the dinner. Kotor is hosting a concert at 2 p.m. on the same day but George Lilly confirms they can still provide coffee for the dinner. Pat Fallin will send a follow up email regarding roles and raffles.

10. **REPORT: SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW POLICY ON NEW SISTER CITIES:** The subcommittee printed, passed out and reviewed the updated guidelines. George Lilly commented that 18 months seems like a long time before becoming a new Sister City. Pat Fallin stated that a city's sustainable relationship is necessary, and the 18 months' timeline helps to ensure that. George Lilly added that guideline #5 about maintaining a calendar of tentative events and exchanges should be copied over as #8 under the guidelines for continuing as a Sister City. On a motion duly made by George Lilly and seconded by Linda Mathews, the addition of maintaining a calendar will be added to the guidelines for continuing as a Sister City is approved, with one abstained. Georgia Gastounitis does not want to force Sister Cities to events they cannot fulfill. Pat Fallin stated that this is a tentative calendar and it is a tool to help Cities plan rather than a binding document. On a motion duly made by Brian Slattery and seconded by George Ayoub, the new guidelines for becoming a Sister City were approved.

11. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT** Pat Fallin reported that Gil Garcia, Marti Correa and Pat Fallin attended the annual conference in Houston, Texas from July 16-19, 2019. There were about ~640 total in attendance. Events included a conference on China, an Africa forum and a final gala with former President George W. Bush as a guest speaker. The Youth Conference was held concurrently at Rice University with about 150 students ranging in age from 13-18 years old and hailing from the States as well as Pakistan, China and five other countries.

12. **SCI'S SOCAL REGIONAL MEETING** Margaret Saavedra reported that the next SoCal meeting is in San Diego on September 7, 2019. Gil Garcia, Marti Correa and Pat Fallin plan to attend starting with a reception on Friday and an overview on San Diego's Sister City programs on Saturday.

13. **YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE (YAAS) DATE AND THEME FOR 2020** – Pat Fallin reports the 2020 theme is 'One World: Out of Many, We are One.' Submissions are due to SCI by May 1, 2020, so Santa Barbara submissions will be due mid-April. Margaret Saavedra is working now to contact schools and line up artwork. She also announced that Santa Barbara High School will accept any canvases even if they are painted on.

14. **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 October 23rd or 24th, 2019, with a presentation on travel tips for Ireland from Gabe Saglie.
- 2) The Committee has submitted a letter to Dingle to expand the Sister City relationship beyond just Dingle to the whole of Kerry County for additional contacts within the County government and a larger population base and requesting the need for a more formal committee on the Dingle side.
- 3) Dingle will be assisting with the 9/11 concert.

**Kotor, Montenegro:** George Lilly, Representative, reported on the following and provided a handout:

Classical Music – The Santa Barbara/Kotor Sister City Committee is excited to announce two classical musicians from Montenegro will be coming to Santa Barbara to perform in two concerts with classical music students from the University of California Santa Barbara. Mark your calendars and please plan to join us for either or both concerts as we welcome Marina Mikic, piano, Katrina Agate, cello, Sara Bashore, violin, and Nastasja Vojinovic, violin. They will be held on Friday, 7:30 p.m., October 18, 2019 at UCSB and Sunday, 2:00 p.m., October 20, 2019 at the Music Academy of the West.

The Kotor International Music Festival - 2019: Ichak Adizes, one of the founders of our Santa Barbara/Kotor Sister City Committee, and his son Sapphire performed an original composition at this year's International Music Festival. The composition was presented in full with an orchestra, choir and visual accompaniment in Kotor, Montenegro for over four hundred people from all over the world. The entire program is available at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SFJbjggqREI\\_Y0F2Bn\\_weAx8Tt2eSFBe/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SFJbjggqREI_Y0F2Bn_weAx8Tt2eSFBe/view?usp=drivesdk).

**Patras, Greece:** Georgia Gastounitis, Representative, reported the rotary club in Patras has requested funding to build a reservoir. The Committee made a financial contribution and work began July 1, 2019. It is not yet completed. One thousand dollars was donated from the Patras Sister City Committee and another \$1,000 from our local rotary club. The reservoir is for firefighters to use. The Patras Committee also donated \$1,000 to the children's hospital where they purchased an infant oxygen hood, an oxygen meter and a specialized unit to move kids/infants throughout the hospital.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** No Representative nor Alternate attended. However, Margaret Saavedra, a member of the Committee, stated that they were at the closing ceremony of the law enforcement exchange happening for about 20 officers in Lompoc, California. Santa Barbara's Sheriff Brown taught a 10-day course on protection for diplomats. Attendants came from Bogota, Colima, Guadalajara and Puerto Vallarta. The next event will be a BBQ at Stow Grove Park at 3:00pm on September 6th as part of the Police Exchange.

The Puerto Vallarta fire department has requested support and the Committee is looking to start a firefighter's exchange.

A group will attend the Mexican Mariachi festival in Puerto Vallarta from October 9-14, 2019.

A delegation trip is being planned for January 2020.

**San Juan, Philippines.** Limar Delicano, Alternate, reported that Albe Dumlao is currently visiting the Philippines and will meet the new mayor of San Juan, Francis Zamora. He will present a letter inviting the mayor to visit Santa Barbara. There may be a visiting delegation for the United Nations Dinner in Santa Barbara on October 20th.

**Toba, Japan:** Linda Mathews, Representative, reported in late October there will be a delegation visit to Toba from October 28 to November 8, 2019. It will be seven days along the southeast of the Kansai Peninsula with hiking, mountains, sake, paper making and ryokans. It will include three days in Toba. The cost is \$2,600-\$2,700 not including airfare so approximately \$3,500-3,600 total. Currently 10-13 people have expressed interest and they have room for a total of 20 guests.

**Weihai, China:** George Ayoub, Alternate, reported that the committee's city-wide forum in August about dealing with China in the age of Trump at Antioch University was well received. The Committee has accepted a last-minute invitation to visit Jinan and Weihai from October 15-19, 2019. Councilmember Megan Harmon will attend.

**15. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Rush, Secretary