

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Fallin at 12:00 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; Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Limar Delicano, Alternate, San Juan, Philippines; Gary Maxwell, Alternate, 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 Georgia Gastounitis and seconded by George Lilly, the minutes of the meeting held on September 4, 2019, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Linda Gunther announces that since the regular next board meeting would fall on New Year's Day, January 1, 2020 (which is a City Hall holiday) it has been moved to one week later on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at noon.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2019:** Calendar reviewed and approved. Brian Slattery adds that Dingle is planning a St. Patrick's Day event on March 11, 2020. Gary Maxwell says Toba will have a New Year's dinner, but the details are still being worked out and Limar Delicano submitted a calendar of San Juan's events.
7. **REPORT OF 9/11 CONCERT - FAULKNER GALLERY -** Pat Fallin reports that the concert was successful. Next year, the Board hopes to focus on kids' performances and/or a larger group performance like a choir. The board is interested in continuing at least until the 20-year anniversary (2021). Linda Gunther will book the Faulkner Gallery for September 11, 2010.
8. **REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS DINNER FOR 2019** Pat Fallin reports approximately 85 people attended this year's event. More people brought a dish than last year, so there were less that paid the \$15 for the dinner; therefore less money was collected. Thanks to Albe Dumlao and the San Juan group for the student musicians. A discussion was held the location next year: Cabrillo Arts Pavilion vs. Carrillo Recreation Center. The Cabrillo is not a guarantee since it is still under construction. The Board agrees to host the 2020 dinner at the Carrillo Recreation Center and Linda Gunther to book it for either Sunday, October 18, 2020, or Sunday, October 25, 2020, based on availability.
9. **REGIONAL MEETING IN SANTA BARBARA FOR SOCAL** Pat Fallin reports that there will be 13 cities represented at the meeting on November 8. There is a dinner from 5:30-7:30

that everyone is invited to on Friday, November 7. The continental breakfast on Saturday will be laid out as guests arrive. The agenda and sponsors were reviewed, Puerto Vallarta received \$500 from Morgan Stanley, The Berry Man donated food, Puerto Vallarta provided \$200 for breakfast, Patras ordered bags and Visit Santa Barbara was providing larger gift bags. A request was made for each city's brochures to go in the bags and a need for greeters to be at the event at 9 am.

10. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT** - None.
11. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING** - See number 9.
12. **YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE (YAAS) DATE AND THEME FOR 2020** – Margaret Saavedra reports that our selected winners need to be to SCI by April 1, 2020. Margaret is working with Sarah Ruben at the County Arts Commission and seeking connections to local schools, both public and private. Gil Garcia will touch base with County schools.
13. **REQUEST FROM MIGUEL ARANA FOR NEW SISTER CITY - LIMA, PERU** Miguel Arana with Miraflores, Lima, Peru presents an interest in becoming a Sister City. They passed around a handout with pictures, a list of members, and a letter of intention from the municipality. In a motion duly made by Gil Garcia and seconded by Georgia Gastounitis, Miraflores is to move forward with the application process. Pat Fallin asks for three volunteers to serve on the advisory committee; the three that volunteered were: Gil Garcia, Georgia Gastounitis, Whitney Rush and Pat Fallin ex-officio. In a motion duly made by George Lilly and seconded by Gary Maxwell, the advisory committee to Miraflores is approved.
14. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

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

- 1) The Santa Barbara/Dingle Sister City Committee will hold their General Membership meeting on October 23rd, at Hillside House with a presentation on travel tips for Ireland from Gabe Saglie.
- 2) The next membership meeting is to be held in late January and their annual meeting will be held on March 11, 2020.
- 3) A letter was sent to Dingle with the Board's new adopted guidelines.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, reported on the following and provided a handout. George Lilly mentions the overall Visa issues they are having in their musician exchange.

Classical Music – The Santa Barbara - Kotor Sister City Committee is excited to announce the Kotor Art Concert happening at the UCSB Music Department on January 31, 2020, and another performance on February 2, 2020. The musicians include Katrina Agate, Sara Bayshore, Andrija Jovovic and Nastasja Vojinovic.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastounitis, Representative, reported that Greek Independence Day will be celebrated on March 20, 2020, at the Greek Orthodox Church in Santa Barbara.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, reports:

That the I Madronnari festival in Puerto Vallarta was a success and the group sponsored food booths at the event. In September, a law enforcement exchange happened for about 20 officers in Lompoc, California. Santa Barbara's Sheriff Brown taught a 10-day course on protection for diplomats.

The next general membership meeting will be held on November 6 with a Day of the Dead celebration at Mulligans and membership elections.

In mid-November there will be firefighting training between the two cities.

A delegation trip is being planned for January 14-23, 2020.

San Juan, Philippines. Limar Delicano, Alternate, reports that all are invited to visit San Juan during their water festival, to be held June 24, 2020.

Toba, Japan: Gary Maxwell, Alternate, reports the New Year's dinner will be at the Unitarian Society on January 19, 2020, with more information to follow. The student exchange will take place in July/August 2020 and any interested junior high students should contact the Toba group.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reports on the delegation trip that just returned from Jinan and Weihai with Councilmember Oscar Gutierrez. They made the front page of the newspaper with a circulation of 2.3 million people. An MOU with expectations was signed and the visit was very successful. Gil Garcia requests to share the MOU and Linda Gunther would like to see the MOU as well. Peter Haslund proposes future trips to China with neighboring California cities that have Sister Cities in Shandong province. Another visit is being planned for the fall of 2020.

The next membership meeting is November 16th.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Rush, Secretary