

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of March 4, 2020

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; David Zamichow, Alternate, Kotor, Montenegro; Georgia Gastounitis, Representative, Patras, Greece; Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Albe Dumlao, Representative, San Juan, Philippines; Limar Delicano, Alternate, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Matthews, Representative, Toba, Japan; Peter Haslund, Representative, Weihai, China; and Linda Gunther, Staff to Board
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING:** On a motion duly made by Peter Haslund and seconded by David Zamichow, the minutes of the meeting held on January 8, 2020, were approved by the Board unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:** On a motion duly made by David Zamichow and seconded by Gil Garcia, the minutes of the special board meeting held on January 29, 2020, were approved by the Board unanimously.
5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Pat Fallin will be presenting at the Youth Leadership Council on March 16th at 5:15 pm at the PAL center and will be presenting on all SCI programs, especially ones that engage youth. All board members are invited and/or encouraged to tell Pat Fallin what information they would like relayed. Gil Garcia suggests periodic presentations about each city rather than presenting all at once.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
7. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2020:** Margaret Saavedra adds the YAAS reception on March 26th at Rusty's. Also Albe Dumlao added the price of \$50 for the Filipino American Friendship Dinner on June 27th.
8. **REPORT ON SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI):** Gil Garcia reports a change of leadership at SCI with Leroy Allala as the new president with new staff. Details of the Youth Leadership Conference may be on hold due to the leadership change. SCI recently hosted the second U.S./Mexico Mayor Summit in El Paso/Juarez and it was a success. The third meeting is being planned for 2021 in San Diego/Tijuana. More details can be found on the SCI website.
9. **REPORT ON SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING:** Margaret Saavedra reports there will be a SoCal meeting in Port Hueneme on March 28, 2020. Gil Garcia reports that Port Hueneme was new to Sister Cities and they are interested in working closely with Santa Barbara and are interested in having Puerto Vallarta as a Sister City. Margaret Saavedra also adds the March 28th meeting to the Calendar of Events.

10. **YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE (YAAS) DATE AND THEME FOR 2020 –**
Margaret Saavedra reports the reception is scheduled for March 26 at the Rusty's on lower State Street. She is working with Brandon, the art teacher from Santa Barbara High School and has received inquiries about where to drop off entries from Goleta Valley Junior High School. Three judges have been confirmed. Mary Harris from the Santa Barbara Education Foundation, Robert Owens, a member of the Santa Barbara City Advisory Committee and local artist Yuliya Lennon. Georgia Gastounitis suggests a retired UCSB professor who was interested in judging. Gil Garcia suggests a retired Santa Barbara High School art teacher who is also interested in judging. Margaret Saavedra asks for their names and contact information to be emailed to her.
- Albe Dumlao asks when the theme and timeline will be available for 2021; Pat Fallin will check on that.
- Margaret Saavedra reports the Morgan Stanley will not sponsor; however, Abby Carpets has agreed to sponsor the \$250 first place prize.
- Linda Matthews says that the Children's Creative Workshop has a similar competition and the winner does a square at Santa Barbara's I Madonnari festival. She says this should be an option for the second place YAAS winner. Discussion was held around whether a business should sponsor or Sister Cities. Gil Garcia says it is best to find a local business sponsor.
- On a motion duly made by Georgia Gastounitis and seconded by Peter Haslund, the Board agrees to offer a square to the second-place winner if an outside sponsor can be found.
11. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INVOICE FOR 2020 \$460.75 -** Pat Fallin reports the current dues to the Chamber of Commerce is \$460.75, then divided by six cities, it is \$76.79 or \$77 for each Sister City. Linda Matthews encourages all to go and attend. Georgia Gastounitis says yes, the Chamber is beneficial, and Margaret Saavedra agrees. On a motion duly made by Gil Garcia and seconded by Georgia Gastounitis, the Board agrees to continue with the Chamber membership for 2020 and each Sister City Committee owes \$77.
12. **REPORT FROM SUBCOMMITTEE ON REQUEST FOR NEW SISTER CITY - MIRAFLORES, LIMA, PERU:** The Subcommittee members appointed are: Gil Garcia, Georgia Gasounitis, Whitney Rush, and Pat Fallin as ex-officio; they reported that there needs to be a proposal from Miraflores and a formal letter from the Mayor of Miraflores. Miguel Arana reports the letter has been requested but there are health issues within their group that has delayed the work. Also, Gil Garcia mentioned that the sub-committee requested an invitation to attend the Miraflores Committee's meetings and events and says the first meeting was positive and a work plan is requested. Once the letter has been received the sub-committee will set up another meeting.

13. **APPOINT A COMMITTEE ON REQUEST FOR NEW SISTER CITY - IRELAND** Tom McCool presents a report for the city of Kinsale in southern Ireland. They have been in touch with the mayor of the municipal district and there is a potential visit planned for October. On a motion duly made by Margaret Saavedra and seconded by Peter Haslund, the board agrees to move forward with Kinsale and assign a sub-committee for the group. On a motion duly made by Peter Haslund and seconded by David Zamichow, and passed by the Board, Georgia Gastounitis, Margaret Saavedra, Albe Dumlao and Linda Gunther as ex-officio are appointed to the subcommittee for Kinsale, Ireland.

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

Kotor, Montenegro: David Zamichow, Alternate, reported on the following. The Kotor Art Concert that took place at the UCSB Music Department on January 31, 2020, and another performance on February 2, 2020 was very good. A group from Kotor is planning on visiting Santa Barbara this summer. A new program with Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) accepted 3-4 students to work and be paid for three months in June - August 2020 in Kotor.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastounitis, Representative, reported that Greek Independence Day will be celebrated March 21, 2020, at the Greek Orthodox Church in Santa Barbara. They are starting to set up a student exchange for the summer 2020 and two students from Patras will come to Santa Barbara during August for Fiesta. They are looking for three students from Santa Barbara, 13-15 years old and one chaperone to go to Patras at the end of July. The students will stay with families and only pay for airfare. The group has a new email address and is working on updating their website.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, reports on the following:

- The Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee has formed an alliance with the International Firefighting Association for U.S. firemen to provide training to the Puerto Vallarta firefighters. The next training is scheduled for May 16-18, 2020. In addition, a long established Alliance with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department continues and the next scheduled training for Puerto Vallarta Police will take place from March 8 to 13, 2020.
- An Alliance with the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara North has provided additional funding for the installation of solar panels at the Santa Barbara Rehab Clinic in Puerto Vallarta.
- Gil Garcia presented alliance opportunities at a Santa Barbara Kiwanis Club lunch meeting on youth programs in cooperation with the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board such as the Young Artist Showcase.
- The Mayor of Puerto Vallarta is interested in learning about Santa Barbara's solid waste program.

San Juan, Philippines. Albe Dumlao, Representative, reports that all are invited to the Easter BBQ and the Filipino American Friendship Dinner on June 27th. The new mayor of San Juan is planning to visit Santa Barbara October 28-November 15.

Toba, Japan: Linda Matthews, Representative, reports that all are invited to the cherry blossom viewing and picnic on March 23rd at 1 pm in Alice Keck Memorial Park. The student exchange will take place in July/August 2020 and interviews will start March 27th. The exchange will be canceled due to Coronavirus if need be.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reports with the spread of Coronavirus to Weihai, the group is looking to help via the local college and Direct Relief to facilitate and/or sponsor mask distribution. Their next meeting is March 14.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Rush, Secretary