

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Fallin at 12:12pm.
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; Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta; Albe Dumlao, Representative, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Representative, Toba, Japan; George Ayoub, Alternate, Weihai;

Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, Staff to Board; Tom McCool, Providing report on Kinsale, Ireland; Margarita Zaske - representing Miraflores, Peru group interested in becoming a Sister City.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Linda Mathews and seconded by Gil Garcia, the minutes of the meeting held on September 2, 2020, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2020-2021:** No upcoming events due to Covid-19. Puerto Vallarta groups does meet monthly and the next meeting is November 4th at 6pm via Zoom which will include Dia de los Muertos and Altars celebrations, and results of the new board elections.
7. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin reports that SCI has officially moved out of their physical D.C. office space and put the contents in storage. SCI's CEO is looking for new space in D.C. and hopes to have something in the next couple of weeks. SCI is looking to revamp the youth program including a Youth Summit in August 2021 and the Young Authors and Artists Showcase (YAAS). SCI is currently working on a theme for YAAS and event planning for the summit during Covid.
8. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING:** Margaret Saavedra reports that they had a successful meeting on October 17th and a Southern California Youth Summit is scheduled for February 9th. They are currently looking for sponsors. Gil Garcia adds that the sponsorship package has gone out and it will be brought before the Puerto Vallarta Board to support it. Pat Fallin adds that information for participants is available on Facebook and there are opportunities for cities to participate especially while no youth exchanges are being held. More info will be shared as it becomes available.
9. **ROBOTICS VIRTUAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM:** Gil Garcia reports on the successful virtual robotics exchange event that Global Education Elite put on for Calabasas. Puerto Vallarta is interested in participating and doing it with another Sister City. Gil Garcia has sent out the Robotics Exchange Program. George Ayoub says Weihai is interested in participating.

10. **YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE (YAAS):** See #7.
11. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON REQUEST FOR NEW SISTER CITY – LIMA, PERU:**
Committee: Gil Garcia, Georgia Gastounitis, Whitney Rush, Pat Fallin –ex-officio - Margarita Zaske reports Covid-19 has caused delays. Peru has just reopened borders so the group in Miraflores is ready to start the program. The groups have a plan in place and are ready to start the formal application. They are planning a Zoom with the committee in Miraflores.
12. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON REQUEST FOR NEW SISTER CITY–KINSALE, IRELAND:**
Committee: Albe Dumlao, Georgia Gastounitis, Margaret Saavedra, Linda Gunther-Ex-officio. Tom McCool sent a written report to the Board prior to the meeting. On October 23rd, the group held a video meeting with Ireland’s Consul General in LA and Tim Quigley with SCI who is the country representative for Ireland and Board chair emeritus. They discussed Ireland’s Covid resurgence and report not much is moving forward. They hope to set up Zoom to share information about Santa Barbara and Kinsale. Tom McCool and contact in Kinsale looking into what they can offer like virtual tours of Kinsale. The Consul General is very interested in expanding Sister Cities and the robotics exchange program. Kinsale currently has a renowned high school robotics program. New members have joined the committee in Santa Barbara including many from the previous Dingle group. Looking to generate interest and using Mo McFadden to expand the mailing list and ideas for more connections between Kinsale and Santa Barbara.
13. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)
- Kotor, Montenegro:** David Zamichow, Alternate, reports that not much is happening due to Covid-19. They have had a number of Zoom calls and hope to return to regular programs in 2021.
- Patras, Greece:** Not present.
- Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** Gil Garcia, Representative, reports Covid-19 is spiking in Puerto Vallarta and the region is shutting down again. Zoom continues to allow different centers to present like the rehab clinic, botanic garden, or foodbank to discuss their programs in Puerto Vallarta. They continue to work with the firemen association to provide training and equipment.
- San Juan, Philippines:** Albe Dumlao, Representative, reports that all events from March through December are on hold. They hope to resume their holiday celebrations in 2021. The group is very interested in the youth summit info forwarded from Gil Garcia.
- Toba, Japan:** Linda Mathews, Representative, reports that the group continues to have monthly Zoom meetings, each with a theme. Last month was red wine, another theme was bento and sake. For Christmas, Toba is planning on each board member decorating greeting cards to be sent to Toba. For January Shinnenkai there will be bento boxes

available from Yoichi for \$38. Members can sign up with a sake testing then join a group Zoom. Food will be available for pre-order.

Weihai, China: George Ayoub, Alternate, reports Weihai held its meeting virtually and rolled over officers the following year due to Covid.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Rush, Secretary