



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



MINUTES

Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board
May 14, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Gerald Corrigan at 12:00 noon. Secretary was asked to call the Roll. Members present were: Gerald Corrigan, Chairperson; Takako Wakita, Vice Chairperson; Janet Baker, Recording Secretary; David Gorbet, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Sadie Hall, Weihai, China; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Carey Rogers, Dingle, Ireland; Roger Horton, City Council Liaison and Linda Gunther, Staff Representative. Guest: George Lilly, Representing the proposed Sister City of Kotor, Montenegro.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the minutes of the March 5, 2008 were approved.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: The Calendar of Events for 2008 were reviewed and discussed. Regarding the 9/11 Concert for September, Gerald said he has asked Gil Garcia to Chair the event again this year and hopefully he will be at the July meeting to present his ideas. Gerald asked those present to be thinking of ways that we might improve the event to possibly get better attendance. It was suggested having it at City College this time. Gerald also asked to change the July meeting from 1st Wednesday to the second Wednesday which would be July 9th. Linda Gunther will check on availability of room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

SCI FUNDING PROPOSAL: Sadie Hall asked what is this program, Federal Re-Granting Citizen Exchange Program? Gerald explained that SCI is proposing to create a non-profit citizen diplomacy network to create and strengthen partnership between U. S. and International Communities, to promote cultural understanding and stimulate economic development. SOCAL has pledged their support of this program and are asking for this Board's support. Gerald said he was not sure if this Board has the authority to pledge our support. Linda Gunther said she would follow up with the City Attorney as to our position and report at the July meeting.

KOTOR SISTER CITY PROPOSAL STATUS: Gerald reported that he and

Takako Wakita, Janet Baker and Dave Gorbet attended the organizational meeting of the proposed Sister City on April 29th. There were about 20 people in attendance and all seemed to be very enthusiastic and officers and chairmen were appointed at this meeting. Gerald then introduced Mr. Lilly, who will be representing the Kotor group on the Sister Cities Board once it has been approved. Mr. Lilly reported that Dr. Adizes, who first proposed Kotor to become a Sister City to Santa Barbara, is in Kotor now and will be returning first of June. Also, dignitaries from Kotor will be visiting Santa Barbara June 9-11th. Mr. Lilly said he felt that City Council should be made aware of the progress they are making and hopefully get it on their Agenda before October for approval. Roger Horton said that he and Dave Gorbet will be going to Kotor in October and Takako Wakita is planning a trip there end of May. Roger felt that a decision of City Council wait until after they return from Kotor.

IRAQI YOUNG LEADERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM: This program was discussed and Gerald said he felt it would be a good opportunity to send a student to this Legacy International Global Citizen Camp, not this year as the deadline is May 15th, but something we might consider for next year. Mr. Horton suggested that letters be sent to the High Schools to see if there is any interest in this program.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Weihai, China: Sadie Hall reported that she will be attending a reception in Los Angeles on May 23rd to meet with the Chinese Consulat. The group is planning to send an I Madonari artist to Weihai in 2009. Also, members Jan Olivas and Gil Garcia will be going with her to the reception in Los Angeles and Jan Olivas is also working to organize a trip to Weihai in 2009. Sadie reported that Dan Fitzgibbons, who has been the representative on this Board is moving to Africa and at present they do not have someone to fill his place. Sadie said they are working to try to build up their membership and get active again.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: David Gorbet reported the group helped put on the Cinco de Mayo event as a fund raiser, this is the second year they have done this event. At the May meeting the Past Presidents of the Puerto Vallarta group were honored and with 96 members and guests in attendance. Plans are underway for the arrival of the visitors from Puerto Vallarta on July 25th and the first event will be the El Fandango on July 26th at the Elks Club which is open to the Public. The annual Strawberry Festival will be on June 8th at the home of Don and Barbara Becker. Students from Puerto Vallarta will be arriving July 6 - 19th.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported their Board just had their monthly meeting and plans made for the Student Exchange in July. Takako

reported on the visit to Santa Barbara of the Acting Consul General of Japan and the luncheon at University Club and visit to the Tea House and Botanical Gardens was well attended.

Dingle, Ireland: Carey Rogers had nothing to report, however, she did say that she had received a request from Dingle for another Adult exchange with the Water District of an Engineer from Dingle to come to Santa Barbara.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried it was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Baker, Recording Secretary