

## Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of May 2, 2018

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at noon.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Takako Wakita, Chair; Margaret Saavedra, City-at-Large; Brian Slattery, Alternate Representative, Dingle, Ireland; Albe Dumlao, Representative, San Juan, Philippines; George Lilly, Representative, Kotor, Montenegro; Gary Maxwell, Alternate Representative, Toba, Japan; Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, Patras, Greece; Peter Haslund, Representative, Weihai, China; and Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Other Attendees: Linda Gunther, Staff to Board

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made by Georgia Gastouniotis, and seconded by Gil Garcia, the minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 2018, were approved as corrected on No. 18, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – “There were 300 (not 1,300) people in attendance....”.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: The following announcements were made:
  - Linda Gunther announced that there are two applicants that applied for the City at Large position on the Sister Cities Board; they will be interviewed by the City Council.
  - Takako Wakita announced that the main level of City Hall still has the Sister City items given to Santa Barbara and they will be on display until the end of June.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: Shaun Tomson, of Santa Barbara, spoke regarding a possible new sister city in Durban, South Africa; he showed a video about Durban.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2018**: The calendar was reviewed and updated.
7. **REPORT ON SCI’s YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS CONTEST – Margaret Saavedra**: Margaret reported that there was difficulty for the students on this year’s theme – “The Art of Diplomacy.” We were unable to talk to the County of Education to make the theme clear. Also we should meet with the County of Santa Barbara Art Council earlier. The reception was held at Rusty’s Pizza on lower State Street. Morgan Stanley paid for food and drink; other expenses were \$119.28; the easels were provided by Sally Hamilton; the Pacific Premiere Bank donated \$250 for the first place winner; and the second place winner received \$150 and the third place winner received \$100 from the Board (all Sister City Committees have paid except for Dingle and Weihai). Takako Wakita, Margaret Saavedra, and Georgia Gastouniotis Board members attended. As a reminder, all seven Sister City Committees are involved in this endeavor.

8. **OPEN WORLD PROGRAM FOR 2018 – Gil Garcia:** Gil reported that the folks from the Program will come on May 11. On Sunday, May 13, from 2 to 5 pm, there will be a lunch at Gil's house. All Sister City Committees are to have at least one of their members come and bring a dish to share. The theme this year is Child Care.
9. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT – Pat Fallin:** Pat was unable to attend the Board meeting; Gil Garcia reported that the new website is much easier to read – he urges all Board members to look it over. You no longer need to sign in so it is much easier to browse it. Also the annual reward dates are on June 4. Gil also mentioned his SCI educational cruise – the theme was to make contact with each other; and contacting with the base. There were 17 folks on the cruise, it was very informative.
10. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING – Pat Fallin:** Since Pat was unable to attend this meeting, Gil announced that on May 19, in Bakersfield, there will be a joint meeting of SoCal and NorCal will be held in Bakersfield on May 18 and 19; a reception is planned for Friday night at the Japanese Gardens. A good meeting for all to go to.
11. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – Patras/San Juan:** Linda Gunther reported that the San Juan video is completed and on the City of Santa Barbara's website under Advisory Groups/Sister Cities/San Juan. All members should check it out. Linda will work with the Patras Sister City Committee as they are the last one to have theirs placed on the website.
12. **STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY'S AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:** Peter Haslund reported that this needs to be continued. He has contacted the high school teachers and they will try to hold it in the fall; it is tabled until the July Board meeting. The members of this ad hoc committee are: Peter Haslund, Pat Fallin, Albe Dumlao, Linda Mathews, and Gil Garcia.
13. **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 "9-11" CONCERT" – FAULKNER GALLERY:** Takako Wakita announced that she has all the musicians ready. The pianist is Gil Rosas, the Men's Choir and Jackson, the Teen Idol Santa Barbara. She hopes all Board members attend.
14. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Takako Wakita:** The Board decided to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce; the cost is \$410 for one year. There is no member card but she will ask for a certificate. The cost is \$58.57 from each Sister City Committee; all are asked to send Takako the check for their portion of the cost. She would like to have a brief presentation on the Chamber membership. This would be a good way to promote the Sister City Program.
15. **ANNUAL REPORT – JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018 – DEADLINE JUNE 15, 2018:** Please send your Sister City Committee's annual report to Takako Wakita by June 15, 2018.

16. **CANCELLATION OF JULY 4 MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAY/NEW DATE?** All Board members agreed to move the meeting to Wednesday, July 11, 2018, from noon to 1 pm.

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

**Dingle, Ireland:** Brian Slattery, Alternate Representative, reported that that the Dingle Sister City Committee continues to reorganize and grow. Tom Parker is a new member. They had a successful meeting; and they are looking into having some artists from Ireland come to visit. They had a meeting with the Consulate General from San Francisco and are glad to establish that connection. They are also working on their trip to Dingle in September – the details are: Leave Santa Barbara on September 5 and arrive in Dublin the next day; on September 7 they will travel to Dingle and stay there until September 9. This trip will involve other areas of Ireland including Dublin. Then a flight to Edinburgh, Scotland for a tour from September 13-14 and a bus trip to York, England and then to London for a tour. They leave London to return home on September 19. If anyone wants to go on the trip, please contact Marti Garcia at [marti@glgarcia-aia.com](mailto:marti@glgarcia-aia.com). He mentioned that an Irish man – Nicholas Den saved the Old Mission in Santa Barbara.

**Kotor, Montenegro:** George Lilly, Representative, reported on the following activities: (1) Culinary – We have begun a ten week training program at the Resource Center for several young people who are interested in learning the basic skills necessary to find entry level positions in Montenegro’s fine resorts and restaurants. The course runs on Saturday mornings and is taught, via Skype, by Goran Milic, owner and chef of Divino Restaurant in Brentwood, California. Goran is assisted on site by Samire Corovic, one of our most successful graduates from our Culinary Academy who is currently employed by the Aman Sveti Stefan. (2) Classical Music: Four young musicians from Montenegro auditioned on the Prestigious Fellows Program at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. Although none were chosen, there were 2,000 who auditioned for 135 positions, they each received special recognition for their talents and encouraged to audition again in 2019. We have begun a cooperation with the Music Department at the University of California in Santa Barbara (UCSB) and will be sending a young violinist from UCSB to perform at the Kotor Arts Music Festival this summer. The young violinist is Sara Bashore and I hope you will have a chance to meet her during her visit to Kotor. This will be the first of many exchanges we hope to have between Kotor Arts and UCSB. (3) Water Polo: Fourteen members of the Santa Barbara Water Polo Club and their coaches will be traveling to Kotor in June to train and compete with the coaches and teams in your area. This will be our fifth exchange over the past several years and has led to lasting friendships among young water polo players from our two Sister Cities. Again, I hope you will have a chance to meet them during their visit to your fine city. I would like to thank you and the many people in Kotor who have participated in our

Sister City exchanges. The hospitality and kindness everyone in Kotor has heaped upon our visitors to your fine City is much appreciated. George also announced that the Kotor Sister City Committee has two fund raising events.

**Patras, Greece:** Georgia Gastouniotis, Representative, reported that the event held on March 24, to celebrate Greek Independence Day was well attended and raised a good amount of money. The money will be sent to the Children's Hospital in Patras. They are starting a process of communicating with the Classics department of UCSB, they will be working with the University of Patras. Georgia will be going to Patras this summer.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** Gil Garcia, Representative, reported on the following activities. The March dinner had guest speakers of Gil and Marti Garcia, who reported on the Mayors Summit Conference in Guadalajara, Mexico. They received, on behalf of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee the Sister Cities International "Community Distinguished Leadership Award." The new President and CEO of SCI, Roger-Mark De Souza presented the award along with the SCI Chairman of the Board, Tim Quigley. At the April dinner the guest speaker was the Santa Barbara Mayor Cathy Murillo, who spoke about issues facing the City of Santa Barbara. Marti and Gil participated in the April 6 to 21 SCI transatlantic educational cruise where Gil gave and heard several interesting presentations on five of the on-ship seminars as well as on shore presentation to American chamber of Commerce in Gibraltar on the four pillars of a lasting sister city relationship which is the key to successful citizen diplomacy interaction. The Committee assisted with a new roof for the Puerto Vallarta Volcanes Elementary School community building currently under construction. Thanks to the generous donation of our members. The Committee is continuing to support the Boca Medical Clinic. Dental Amistad, which is a new donation-only dental program located in the Santa Barbara Sister City sponsored Medical services building in Boca de Tomatlan is flourishing. We are in the planning process of activities for the June Puerto Vallarta visitors. The Puerto Vallarta's I. Madonnari painter will be arriving in May to participate in the local festival.

**San Juan, Philippines.** Albe Dumlao, Representative, reported that on June 23 there will be a Friendship Day at the Elks Club at 7 pm; all Board members are welcome to attend – the cost is \$40.

**Toba, Japan:** Gary Maxwell, Alternate Representative, reported on the student exchange. This is their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for the exchange. There will be a big celebration on August 11. They are interviewing students that are 13, 14, and 15 years old; scholarships are available.

**Weihai, China**: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that the Chinese New Year's celebration was held in February. A Conference for the community will be held in early fall. This will involve aluminum, steel and property from a Chinese perspective.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary