

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Special Board Meeting of January 29, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Fallin at 12:04P.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; Maureen McFadden, Alternate, Dingle, Ireland; Georgia Gastounitis, Representative, Patras, Greece; Gil Garcia, Representative, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Limar Delicano, Alternate, San Juan, Philippines; and Linda Matthews, Representative, Toba, Japan

Other Attendees: Oscar Gutierrez, Council Liaison

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
4. **YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE (YAAS) BUDGET –** Margaret Saavedra reports that the reception venue changed from Pilgrim Terrace to Rusty's Pizza on State Street. Whitney Rush presented prices for digital ads in Noozhawk and the Santa Barbara Independent. Pat Fallin and Gil Garcia agree these newspapers at this cost are not reaching our target audience. Gil Garcia offers to talk with the new County supervisor of the Santa Barbara Unified School District. Margaret Saavedra reports it is \$60 for the two rooms at Rusty's pizza. Pacific Premier will donate the \$250 first prize. The second-place prize (\$150) plus the third-place prize (\$100) plus the room rental (\$60) is a remaining total of \$310. Puerto Vallarta brought in the first-place prize donation, so the remaining amount is to be evenly split amongst the six remaining Sister City Committees. A total of \$310 divided by six sister city committees is \$52 per city Committee to be paid to Santa Barbara Sister Cities. On a motion duly made by Georgia Gastounitis and seconded by Linda Matthews, the YAAS budget and payment is approved.

Margaret Saavedra reminds Committees that judge names and art stands should be brought to the March meeting.

5. **REPORT FROM SANTA BARBARA /DINGLE SISTER CITY COMMITTEE** Pat Fallin reads:

"A Statement From Santa Barbara Dingle Sister City Committee to the Santa Barbara Sister City Board: January 8, 2020:

The Committee voted last night to recommend to Council and the Mayor to dissolve the Santa Barbara Dingle Sister City relationship. We have requested numerous times in the past year to bring it in to compliance with the new guidelines adopted in 2019. They have resisted expanding to the larger County of Kerry and we are still dealing with basically one couple with no Committee. They have also recently established a new Sister City relationship with West Springfield, Massachusetts which they are quite excited about as it better meets their commercial interests as they exhibit their jewelry at the Big E

Exposition each September. The immigration pattern to Western Massachusetts is well established going all the way back to the mid to late 1800's from the Blasket Islands. Due to the disparity in population between Santa Barbara and Dingle, if we tried to establish this now it would probably not be accepted as per the guidelines. Our delegation that visited in 2018 did not feel all that welcome. Many of the people they spoke with weren't even aware of Santa Barbara and Dingle being Sister Cities. We are looking to other towns in Ireland as a potential new Sister City and the Committee intends to stay intact throughout this process."

Pat Fallin, Linda Matthews and Gil Garcia provide context and history of trying to revitalize the Dingle Sister City. The Sister City was founded in 2003 and there have been a couple exchanges but very little reciprocity. The committee in Dingle is one couple and no other engagement from other members of the public or at the local government level.

Pat Fallin and Maureen McFadden report that the Committee is looking for another Irish Sister City and they have one of interest that appears more viable than Dingle.

The next steps would be Linda Gunther writing a Council Agenda Report and resolution for dissolution that would be placed on the City Council Agenda.

Georgia Gastounitis asks what would happen with the current Dingle funds. Pat Fallin states they would likely transfer to the new city Committee. Maureen McFadden confirms.

On a motion duly made by Maureen McFadden and seconded by Linda Matthews, the board moves to accept the Committee's recommendation to dissolve the Santa Barbara /Dingle Sister City Committee.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Rush, Secretary