

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of January 6, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Pat Fallin called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Pat Fallin, *Chair*; Margaret Saavedra, *Vice Chair*; George Lilly - *Kotor, Montenegro*; Gil Garcia - *Puerto Vallarta, Mexico*; Albe Dumlao - *San Juan, Philippines*; Linda Mathews - *Toba, Japan*; Peter Haslund – *Weihai, China*; Linda Gunther, *Staff Representative*
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Albe Dumlao and seconded by Gil Garcia, the minutes of the meeting held on November 4, 2020, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2020-2021:** None
7. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin reports that there is a new address for Sister Cities International in Washington, D.C.
8. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING REPORT:** Gil Garcia announces that So Cal will be having an International Youth Leadership Conference in February and he would like participants from Santa Barbara.
9. **ROBOTICS VIRTUAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM:** Gil Garcia would be happy to talk with others regarding this exchange program.
10. **YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE (YAAS):** No report.
11. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON REQUEST FOR NEW SISTER CITY – LIMA, PERU:**
Committee: Gil Garcia, Georgia Gastounitis, Whitney Rush, Pat Fallin –ex-officio

Margarita Zaska (Peru) said that their country is in bad shape, but she has connected with their Mayor and people who are working on a possible Sister City relationship (Mira Flores) with Santa Barbara.
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 announced that Ireland has a lockdown through January 31st. They (Kinsale) are preparing an awareness campaign for a possible Sister City relationship with Santa Barbara.
13. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INVOICE FOR 2021:** After some discussion, Linda Mathews made a motion to pay, which was seconded by Peter Haslund, and the Board approved it

unanimously. Pat Fallin will send out information to the Sister City Committees on the amount to be paid, and will then pay the invoice.

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

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, representative, gave a list of the 2021 agenda items as follows:

Auditions for the Fellows Program have been put on hold. As an alternative, KotorArt will produce a video featuring gifted musicians from the area, with visuals of the City of Kotor and the KotorArt International Music Festival.

In February, there will be interviews at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) Culinary School for summer positions in Montenegro resorts.

In March, there will be interviews for UCSB Music students to perform at the 2021 KotorArt International Music Festival.

In April, Kotor's Resource Center will host interviews for student internships at Divino Restaurant in California.

In May SBCC Culinary positions in Montenegro Resorts begin, running May through September.

In June, the Kotor Resource students begin internships at Divino Restaurant, lasting June through August.

In July: the Kotor musician selected for the Music Academy of the West Fellows Program will participate in the program from July through August; a selected UCSB music student will participate in the KotorArt Music Festival from July through September; and the Santa Barbara Premier Water Polo Team will travel to Kotor to train and compete in July and August.

In December, the UCSB and Kotor Musicians concert will be held at UCSB and the Music Academy of the West.

Patras, Greece: Not present.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, reported that it was a very busy year. The Sister Cities group cannot visit Puerto Vallarta in 2021, but there was a video conference that he shared with the Chamber and Rotary. There will be a new Board of Directors voted, and a presentation of a Youth Conference.

San Juan, Philippines: Albe Dumlao, Representative, announced that he will be stepping down. The new President will appoint another one to replace him. The youth summit has some restrictions for local participants.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews, Representative, reported that they are holding Zoom meetings that include contacts in Toba. They held an event of Christmas caroling and invited former Mayor Helene Schneider to participate. All enjoyed it and seeing the Christmas decorations.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that they held their annual meeting on December 5, 2020. They are trying to plan as if there is no COVID-19. The travel plans they would like to make would be to engage with other Sister Cities in small Chinese provinces.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, City Staff Representative.