

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of March 3, 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; Lucile Vea, Secretary; George Lilly - Kotor, Montenegro; Georgia Gastounitotis, Patras, Greece; Gil Garcia - Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Peter Haslund – Weihai, China; Linda Gunther, Staff Representative
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Peter Haslund and seconded by Margaret Saavedra, approval of the minutes of the meeting held on January 6, 2021, were delayed until the next meeting.
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 SCI has been holding a series of very interesting “Global Conversation” webinars. She has been sending the registration links for these webinars to the committee members. She urges everyone to join them as they share interesting information and tips. In addition, they will be hosting country-based roundtables, a virtual annual event in July and a youth leadership conference in August. She wants us to think about how we could participate in the two conferences.
8. **SCI’S SOCAL REGIONAL MEETING REPORT:** Margaret Saavedra announces that So Cal will hold a meeting on Saturday, March 13th in which they will report on the Youth Conference that was held in February. They are also looking to hold the Youth Conference in different countries as a way of encouraging people to get involved in Sister Cities.
9. **ROBOTICS VIRTUAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM:** Gil Garcia reports that he has no updates today. They are still waiting for things to get back to normal once Covid is under control.
10. **YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE (YAAS):** Pat Fallin reports that the Lexington, Kentucky Sister Cities Board has made their program available on the SCI website. Pat would like us to be involved but thinks that it is too late to meet the May deadline for submissions. She is organizing a committee to create and implement a plan for participating in the future. Peter Haslund and Lucile Vea volunteered for the committee. Margaret Saavedra, who coordinated this activity in the past, will share her insights and knowledge.
11. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON REQUEST FOR NEW SISTER CITY – LIMA, PERU:**
Committee: Gil Garcia, Georgia Gastounitotis, Lucile Vea, Pat Fallin –ex-officio

Margarita Zaske (Peru) said that there is a meeting schedule for March 11th, 2021 with the Mayor of Mira Flores (delayed from February because of the Covid lockdown). There are

about 14 committee members in Santa Barbara and a similar number in Mira Flores, all of whom will be attending the meeting.

Gil Garcia suggests that we create an agenda for the meeting. He has a slide show that covers the purpose and benefits of participating in the Sister Cities program that we can send in advance of the meeting to our contacts in Mira Flores.

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 was not present, but he provided a report recently that has been emailed to all board members.

13. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INVOICE FOR 2021:** No discussion.

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

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, present but did not report.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastounitis, Representative, reports that nothing much has been done recently due to the Covid crisis. Greece is in its third lockdown.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, reports that the committee will hold a meeting tonight to which everyone is invited. The meeting will focus on the Puerto Vallarta “Children with Cancer” program. The committee also applied for a grant to help rebuild a hanging bridge that was washed out during a storm. The bridge connects two parts of Puerto Vallarta that are separated by a river. He is optimistic that the grant will come through. The committee is also continuing to foster cooperation by working with an international fire fighter association with contacts in both cities. He reports that the local committee is conducting a membership drive which is going well.

San Juan, Philippines: Not present. Pat Fallin announced that Dr. Tang will replace Albe Dumlao as the Representative. Limar Delicano has declined to continue as the alternate, so a new alternate will need to be found.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews, Representative, not present.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, reported that he participated in a meeting about youth engagement. Weihai organized a virtual Chinese New year party which was fun but not as engaging as gathering in person. He is looking forward to things getting back to normal.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Lucile Veja, Secretary.