

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of May 5, 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 Veal, Secretary; George Lilly - Kotor, Montenegro; Gil Garcia - Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; George Ayoub (Alternate) – Weihai, China; Gary Maxwell (Alternate) – Toba, Japan; Linda Gunther, Staff Representative
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Gil Garcia and seconded by Margaret Saavedra, the minutes of the meeting held on March 5, 2021, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2020-2021:** Gil Garcia announces that Puerto Vallarta is planning a trip here in October or November to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Sister City relationship. George Lilly announces that a UCSB musician will participate in Kotor's arts and music festival. In addition, three or four students from SBCC's culinary school will intern in Montenegro this summer.
7. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin reports that SCI will hold their annual conference virtually on July 15th and 16th. They are planning it now but it should include workshops. They have extended the deadline for applications until June 15th. You can get more information about it on the SCI website, sistercities.org.
8. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING REPORT:** Margaret Saavedra reports that Amanda Gorman is not available on May 14th because she is working on her poetry. They are organizing a "Friends of SoCal" fundraising program and asking for donations of \$30.
9. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON REQUEST FOR NEW SISTER CITY – LIMA, PERU:**
Committee: Gil Garcia, Georgia Gastounitis, Lucile Veal, Pat Fallin –ex-officio

Margarita Zaske reports that the meeting with the March 11th meeting with the Mayor of Mira Flores and the Mira Flores committee members went well. As a result of the meeting, she would like to move forward with the process of establishing the sister city relationship. The committee is working on an action plan for the rest of the year. The committee is divided into four groups – tourism, education, art and sports.

Pat Fallin asked that she create a written proposal detailing the action plan so that we can vote on it.
10. **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. There was no update.

11. **ANNUAL 9/11 CONCERT:** It was decided to cancel the event this year.
12. **ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS DINNER:** It was decided to postpone the decision as to whether we should cancel or proceed with the dinner until the July meeting as the event will take place in late October. Linda Gunther will look into the feasibility of holding the dinner at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion.
13. **SCI – YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE FOR 2021:** Pat Fallin suggests that we partner with the Art Fund rather than the school system to organize the event. She will reach out to the Art Fund to begin planning.
14. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, showed a 3 minute video on the Kotor Art Festival. There will be a festival in 2021, though on a smaller scale. The committee will not visit Montenegro in 2021 but intends to visit in 2022. He also reports that he met with the new head of the SBCC culinary school, an important contact as the school sends interns to Montenegro every summer.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastounitotis, Representative, not present.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia, Representative, reports that the committee is beginning to organize in-person meetings for this summer. They are planning to raise funds to help create a mural in Puerto Vallarta that will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Santa Barbara-Puerto Vallarta sister city relationship. This evening they are holding a Margarita race and a Chihuahua race in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. There will also be a presentation on an art museum that is being formed in Puerto Vallarta. The Santa Barbara committee is planning on visiting Puerto Vallarta in October or November.

San Juan, Philippines: Alexander Tang, Representative, not present.

Toba, Japan: Gary Maxwell, Alternative, present. No update.

Weihai, China: George Ayoub, Alternative, reports that they celebrated the Chinese New Year in February with a virtual dinner. In March, representatives from Weihai spoke in a City Council meeting on their concerns about anti-Asian violence.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Lucile Veal, Secretary.