

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of January 5, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Pat Fallin called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Pat Fallin, Chair; Margaret Saavedra, Vice Chair; Lucile Veal, Secretary; George Lilly - Kotor, Montenegro; Georgia Gastouniotis - Patras, Greece; Craig Arcuri - Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Linda Matthews - Toba, Japan; Linda Gunther, Staff Representative
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by George Lilly and seconded by Georgia Gastouniotis, the minutes of the meeting held on November 3, 2021, were approved.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Pat Fallin reported that she contacted the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce in December to try to set up a meeting to discuss our membership with them. The President was in favor of doing this but wanted to wait until after the new year. Pat is still trying to determine how much each city will contribute towards the membership dues. If eight cities participate, the cost per city will be \$60. If San Juan does not participate, the cost will be \$68.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2022:** Linda Gunther reported that the only change that needs to be made to the calendar is the dates of the 2022 meetings. She will make those updates and send the calendar to everyone.
7. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) REPORT:** Pat Fallin reported that SCI held a leadership meeting in November in Washington DC. The Annual Conference will be held in Santa Fe, NM from July 7-8, 2022. There should be a virtual option as well as the in-person event.
8. **SCI'S SOCIAL REGIONAL MEETING REPORT:** Margaret Saavedra reported that they meet four times a year, the most recent being in October. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2022. In the October 2021 meeting, they discussed the plans for the upcoming year. Among the plans are a desire to organize a youth summit, develop relationships between Japanese and Californian universities, and organize a trip to South Africa in 2023. In addition, Culver City presented the winners of their Young Artists and Authors competition. Margaret is happy to forward the meeting minutes to anyone who is interested.
9. **SCI - YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE:** - Pat Fallin reported that she is looking for someone to take over responsibility for this initiative. She had been in contact with Ms. Jamie Dufek at the Arts Fund, but they now seem to be re-organizing so

we may need a new contact. We could use social media and the libraries to publicize the event. Gil knows someone who is willing to write a press release for us.

- 10. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON REQUEST FOR NEW SISTER CITY – MIRAFLORES, LIMA, PERU:** Committee: Gil Garcia, Georgia Gastounitis, Lucile Veal, Pat Fallin –ex-officio (Margarita Zaske)

Margarita Zaske reported that she had communicated to Miraflores that we had voted to move forward but that we were waiting for the new mayor to be sworn in. Pat Fallin reported that the mayor will be sworn in on January 11, 2022, so she will prepare the letter to the mayor.

- 11. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON REQUEST FOR NEW SISTER CITY– KINSALE, COUNTY CORK, IRELAND:** Committee: Georgia Gastounitis, Margaret Saavedra, Linda Gunther–ex-officio (Tom McCool)

Tom McCool reported that he met with the five-person committee from Kinsale on November 11, 2021. Things are moving slowly, but they did receive the information they required from their City Council and so they know what they need to do. They will hold another meeting at the end of January or early in February to clarify responsibilities and tasks.

- 12. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** (Limit 3 minutes each)

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, reported that after the success of the two culinary students who went to Montenegro last year to work at a resort, we have been invited to send four students for the summer of 2022. George will meet with SBCC culinary school students in January to kick off the application process. The US Ambassador to Kotor has provided a \$20,000 grant to sponsor a special joint performance of classical music between Kotor and Santa Barbara. A composer from UCSB and from Kotor Art will each create an original piece of music. The pieces will be performed in Kotor and Santa Barbara. In addition, George is exploring how to hold auditions for candidates from Kotor to apply for the Fellows program at the Music Academy of the West. They are still exploring whether to hold a water polo exchange in 2022. That event was cancelled in 2021 due to Covid.

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastounitotis, Representative, reported that they are planning on having a Zoom meeting in the next month or so. The March fundraiser has been cancelled due to Covid. The 2022 trip to Greece is still tentative, also due to Covid.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Craig Arcuri, Representative, reported that the Day of the Dead event was very successful, and all proceeds from it will go to help children with cancer. A small group visited Puerto Vallarta from November 29 - December 8, 2021. The annual holiday party was held at Cesar's Place on Milpas. They held a board

meeting on December 19, 2021, at which time Alicia Sorkin was appointed as a new board member. Other projects include providing solar panels to a dog shelter, funding scholarships, and providing funds and supplies to a health clinic. The January 2022 meeting has been canceled due to Covid.

San Juan, Philippines: Albe Dumlao, Alternative, not present.

Toba, Japan: Linda Matthews, Representative, reported that they have started to hold monthly Zoom meetings. Last year they organized such projects as a Hiroshima bell ringing and an exchange of peace cranes. There probably won't be a student exchange this year due to Covid. Toba is interested in organizing a virtual exchange on elder care. Takako and Linda have been researching our elder care services in preparation for the exchange. OMNI, the Mesa organization, wants to revive the Japanese garden in Shoreline Park which was originally sponsored by the Toba delegation.

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund, Representative, not present.

13. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Lucile Veal, Secretary.