

Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of May 3, 2023

1. **Call to Order** Vice-Chair Lucille Vea called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm
2. **Roll Call** Members present:
 - a. Vice Chair - Lucille Vea
 - b. Secretary - Mark Philiposian
 - c. Kotor, Montenegro – alternate David Zamichow
 - d. Patras, Greece – George Pepazacharioudakis
 - e. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – Bonnie Carroll
 - f. Toba, Japan – alternate Gary Maxwell
 - g. Weihai, China – no representative nor alternate present
 - h. Miraflores, Peru – Margarita Zaske
 - i. Mayor – Randy Rowse
 - j. City Council Liaison – Oscar Gutierrez
 - k. Representative of the Mayor’s Office – Holly Perea
 - l. Staff Representative – Linda Gunther
3. **Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting Held on March 1, 2023:** On a motion duly made by Bonnie Carroll and seconded by George Lilly, the minutes of the meeting held on March 1, 2023, were unanimously approved by the Board.
4. **Announcements**
 - The Board Roster has been updated by Linda Gunther and provided to the attendees.
 - Linda Gunther provided the attendees the original resolution of the Santa Barbara City Council approving the creation of the Santa Barbara Sister City Association and reminded everyone that the Representative or Alternative must be at the meeting to be able to vote on or discuss agenda items.
 - The updated calendar of events has been provided by Linda Gunther to each attendee.
5. **Public comments**
 - Kate Riesen from KEYT presented information on the opportunities to use KEYT to help promote tourism and travel for the Sister Cities Board members. The options include, but are not limited to sweepstakes, commercial placement with paid advertisements during peak hours across networks, and streaming opportunities for Spanish speaking providers. A packet was given to Secretary Mark Philiposian with additional information.
6. **Review of Calendar of Events for 2023/2024**

An updated calendar of events was provided to each attendee. Miraflores, Peru would like to add the following events:

 - Sunday, June 11: Anticuchada at Mesa Park
 - Sunday, July 30: Celebration of Peru Independence Day
 - May/June 2024: Visit to Peru (Miraflores & Machu Picchu)

7. [Report from Sister Cities International \(SCI\)](#) No update was provided.

8. [Report from SCI's So Cal Regional Meeting](#) No update was provided.

9. [Renew Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce Membership](#)

Bonnie Carroll made a motion on renewing the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce Membership for a cost of \$75.00 for each Sister City Committee, it was seconded by David Zamichow; it was approved unanimously by all board members present. Margaret Saavedra will coordinate the payment of \$75 from each Sister City Committee.

10. [SCI – Young Artists and Authors Showcase Review:](#) A reception was held on March 22nd to celebrate the 27 art pieces (six from Mexico) and five poem submissions and award the \$250 to the winners. The Santa Barbara News Press attended the event and did a color story on the event. Some of the student participants will be submitting their art and poems in the SCI contest.

11. [Create a Santa Barbara Sister Cities Brochure](#)

A discussion was held regarding creating a Santa Barbara Sister Cities Brochure. Margarita Zaske made a motion, and it was seconded by Bonnie Carroll, to create a committee to determine the feasibility of creating a Santa Barbara Sister Cities brochure. Margarita Zaske and Bonnie Carroll volunteered to be on the committee and Margaret Saavedra will follow up to discuss next steps.

12. [Representative Reports](#)

Kotor, Montenegro

A student from SBCC Culinary school will do an internship in Kotor from June 15th to August 15th. Two students from Kotor will be participating in an internship at Vino restaurant in Santa Barbara. They are also looking into interest in the International Music Festival in Kotor in the month of July.

Patras, Greece

The Patras Greece Sister City Committee held the Greek Independence Day celebration which included food, drinks, dancing, and a talk on the relationship with Patras as a Sister City. The event raised \$3,000 for the children's hospital in Patras. Patras is looking to start a student exchange at some time in the next year for those from 13-17 years old. Additionally, they are looking into a trip to Greece in 2024.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Bonnie Carroll reported that board members supported the other Sister City committees by attending both the Greek Independence Day celebration and Japan's cherry tree rededication. On March 22nd, they helped support the Young Artists and Showcase awards reception. There

were 27 art pieces (6 from Mexico) and 5 poems. Some of the young artists will submit their work to the SCI contest as well.

Upcoming events:

- May 3: Cinco de Mayo celebration: 65 people have signed up to attend the celebration, which will include a live mariachi band.
- May 8: Cinco de Mayo celebration will be held in Port Hueneme, also a member of Sister Cities International.
- May 22: two artists from Puerto Vallarta will be coming up to participate in the upcoming I Madonnari event.
- July 9: A Dolphin Dive event will be held at Chase Palm Park as a fundraiser.
- July and October: there are tentative trips to Puerto Vallarta (activities are still being developed).

Toba, Japan

A one-week student exchange has been finalized where four students from the age of 12-15 years old from both countries will be participating. On March 30th, there was a rededication of 3 cherry trees which were planted to celebrate the 50th year anniversary of the relationship with Toba. These three trees, which are planted in Alex Keck Park, were not doing as well as the others which were planted and replanted. A past mayor from Toba came attended the event.

Miraflores, Peru

Miraflores has been approved officially as a Santa Barbara Sister City. They successfully held a Peruvian “chicken” event at Oak Park which was attended by 100 people. They are looking into a student exchange with the SBCC culinary school, as a famous chef from Lima would like to come to Santa Barbara to help teach about Peruvian cuisine. They are planning a trip to Peru to further establish relationships in Peru, which will include four days in Lima and six in Machu Picchu. They are planning the following upcoming events:

- June 11: will be a fundraising BBQ at Mesa Park;
- July 30: a celebration of Peru’s independence will be held with professional dancers at Casa de la Raza; and
- 2024: a trip is being planned where they will meet with mayors from both Lima and Miraflores

Weihai, China

No update as there was no Representative nor Alternate at the meeting.

13. [Adjournment](#) The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Philibosian, Secretary.