

Santa Barbara Sister Cities
Board Meeting Minutes - January 3, 2024

1. Board meeting called to order at 12:07 pm
2. Roll Call:
 - Chair: Margaret Saavedra (City at large)
 - Kotor: George Lilly
 - Miraflores: Margarita Zaske
 - Patras: George Pepazacharioudakis
 - Puerto Vallarta: Bonnie Carroll
 - Toba: Linda Mathews (arrived later)
 - Weihai: Jill Stassinis
 - Mayor: Randy Rowse
 - Linda Gunther
3. Bonnie Carroll moved and George Pepazacharioudakis seconded to approve November 15th, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes as presented.
4. Margarita Zaske announced that the 1st Annual Visit to Peru will be held from May 22-31, 2024 and will include Miraflores, Lima and Cusco and meetings with the mayors, the Mayor of Santa Barbara and 47 SB/Miraflores Sister City members will participate. She announced that there are 2 spots remaining and invited members of other sister cities to sign up. Margaret announced that the International Sister Cities Dinner will be tentatively held in October 2024 with a silent action fundraiser. It has not been held in last years and we need to find a place to rent, possibly Cabrillo Pavilion or Cabrillo Community Center. Bonnie Carroll, Margarita Zaske and Scott Burns volunteered to form a committee to help organize the event. Bonnie suggested including international music, a show and potluck.
5. No public comments.
6. Margaret shared dates for three events to be added to the calendar:
 - April 12, 2024: YAAS submission deadline for entries. Theme: "Climatescape: Resilient Cities for Tomorrow's Climate"
 - April 23, 2024: YAAS reception at SB County Education office 3:30-5 pm
 - October 19 or 20, 2024: Tentative date International Dinner
7. Margaret reported that Pat Fallin is still the contact for SCI but has relocated to Oklahoma. The 2024 All America Summit will be held at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio River Walk from May 27-June 1, 2024 in San Antonio, Texas.
8. Margaret reported that the SCI-SoCal Sister Cities Committee coordinates the California Youth Leadership Summit and sponsored the California Youth Artists Expo in 2023. The Youth organizing committee has selected 2 of the 4 themes: "Climate Action & Sustainability" and "Peace & Justice", the final 2 themes will be selected at end of the year. The 2022/2023 California Youth Leadership Summit was online with high school and college students from California and 150 countries. The SCI-SoCal Committee has set a goal of \$25,000 for both events and received a sponsorship of \$10,000 from SoCal Edison and \$5,000 from Japan, which will cover basic operating and promotional costs. Their next meeting will be on November 18th.
9. YAAS update: 4 sister cities members met with Erin Sawyer and Kelly Mitchell from SBCEO Children's Creative Project (CCP) on December 12th at home of Debbie Merlo (SB/Patras

member). Dates for different activities were established. Erin and Kelly will design a flyer and website for the 2024 YAAS, and CCP will coordinate media access and contact local schools and art teachers. Awards will be given in 3 different categories for 1st and 2nd place, prize amounts will be reduced. A budget was established for an overall cost of \$1,500-\$1,650, including expenses and funding sources (\$100 donation from each sister city, fundraising events, and sponsorships from individuals and businesses). Margaret sent meeting notes to all sister city representatives.

10. Bonnie reported that the Sister Cities brochure will cost about \$700. The new brochure will have inserts with information and membership form from each city that can be updated and reprinted. We need to raise funds; we can ask each city to contribute \$50. Linda Matthews asked if the board has funding to pay for brochure, suggested two-fold brochure with information from each sister city (a paragraph and picture), and insert from each city. Linda Gunther passed around current brochure, she will check if City still has Reprographics. Bonnie will ask each city to send picture and information. The brochure will be an item for the next meeting.
11. Puerto Vallarta: Held a Posada with a live burro (donkey) starting at Presidio Chapel, had a Boo Bash with Rotary Club, and Annual Christmas Party with silent auction, music and dance on December 17th.

Patras: Planning the Annual Greek Independence celebration with major fundraising in collaboration with Orthodox church and it will be on a Saturday night (date to be confirmed). Patras will organize a student exchange. The Mayor of Patras was reelected and is not supportive.

Weihai: Had a social event with potluck and white elephant gifts. The Chinese New Year is celebrated on February 10th, Weihai will organize a dinner or lunch, maybe at the China Pavilion, date to be confirmed.

Toba: New Year celebration on February 25th, with Ojai O'Daiko performers at SB Unitarian Society, it will start at 5 pm and will include Japanese food with Sake toast, cost to be determined. Toba will do a student exchange this summer with 2 boys and 2 girls (14-16 years old) and a chaperone spending 10 days in Japan.

Kotor: George will do a 6-minute video presentation at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Prepared by: Margarita Gonzalez