

City of Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara Sister Cities
MAY 1, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

- **CALL TO ORDER**
Chair Margaret Saavedra called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.
- **ROLL CALL: Members Present:** Margaret Saavedra, Chair; Mark Philbosian, Vice-Chair; George Lilly, Kotor; Margarita Gonzalez Zaske, Miraflores; George Papazacharioudakis, Patras; Bonnie Carroll, Puerto Vallarta; Jill Stassinis, Weihai. – Toba, Japan rep absent
Alternate Council Liaison; Oscar Gutierrez
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** George Lilly moved to accept the March 6, 2024, board meeting minutes and Bonnie Carroll seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Margaret Saavedra made the following announcements: Our City interface is now up to date; be sure to review the section under your City for accuracy and any updates.
- Interviews for the open community position on this board will be conducted in the Fall.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment.
- **REVIEW OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024:** Linda Gunther asked all members to send her their calendar of events and they will be emailed to the members.
- **REPORT FROM SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI):** Sister City International::
 - a). All Americas Summit – San Antonio, Tex. May 28 – 31, 2024. SB/PV will send delegates Bonnie Carroll and Alicia Sorkin, they will represent the City of Santa Barbara.
 - Margarita Gonzalez Zaske reported there will also be a representative from Miraflores, as a panelist at SCI All Americas Summit as well.
 - b.) Young Author and Artist deadline pushed back to June 1, 2024
 - c.) SCI Youth Leadership Summit – deadline to apply May 15, 2024;
For students 14 – 18 years of age from across the globe.
- **SoCal –**The California Youth Leadership Summit and the California Young Artists Expo will be streamed together on Saturday, May 18th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The over 800 pieces of art are currently up on the California Young Artists Expo <www.californiasummit.org/art> and direct voting on the website is now online. As for the California Youth Leadership Summit, panelists are still being recruited. We are still seeking high school and college students to participate.
- **YAAS FINAL REPORT:** A reception was held to award and recognize the young artists for their submissions on April 23, 2024 at the SB County Education Office. A luncheon and donations were part of the effort to cover expenses for awards and the reception. Many, many thanks to the SB County Ed Office for their collaboration with our efforts and especially to Kelly Mitchell of the Children’s Creative Network. Many thanks to Sister City members on the YAAS committee, Debbie Merlo, Margarita Gonzales Zaske, Jill Stassinis Bonnie Carroll and George

and Denise Lilly to name a few. Bonnie Carroll especially thanked the media for their participation.

- **BROCHURE FINAL REPORT:** Bonnie Carroll gave the final report on the brochure. There were 1,000 brochures made and they will be kept in the Mayor's Office. Everyone agreed that it is a very well-done brochure and will help give support for a new Sister City. Bonnie Carroll will be attending the Summit and giving out some brochures.
- **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, gave a report on their new project they are working on. It is a new USA and Kotor cultural center in Perast (in Montenegro). The city of Perast is leasing the building to the museum for use and renovation for \$1 per year. A video is planned to be shown to give the Board members more information.
- Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: A dinner was held on April 24 at the Wellness Center in cooperation with Santa Barbara Rotary North. Music was donated by Adriana Reyna, Mayo provided the meal at his reduced cost, the Wellness Center donated their facility for the dinner and an anonymous donor presented a check for \$5000.
- There will be an IFTA Training class in Tepic, Mexico. IFTA if the International Firefighrer Training Academy provides donated and materials and equipment to Mexico and training for personnel in the use of the equipment. Their motto: "We Save Live"
- Miraflores, Peru: Margarita Gonzales Zaska – trip members will meet for one last meeting on Monday before trip leaves on the May 22nd -31st.
- Miraflores wants to create a training for students here in gastronomy and culinary arts.
- Plans to attend Peru Independence Day celebration in LA on Sunday, July 28th. A big celebration with food, dancing and cultural events. More info as it is available.
-
- Patras Greece: George Papazacharioudakis reported inspite a of a few setbacks there will be a visit to Greece and Patras in September, about 35 persons will be going.
- Patras is planning a student exchange at the end of June.
- A mini-Greek Festival on Friday and Saturday June 27-28 is planned across the street from the Hilton Hotel
-
- Weihai, China: Holds regularly scheduled Dim Sum Sunday Brunch on the first Sunday of each month at the China Pavilion Restaurant in Santa Barbara on Chapala Street at 11:30 am. The cost is \$20 including tax and tip.
- Planning train trip to Chinatown in Los Angeles and also to Huntington Gardens.TBD
- Board Retreat: A board retreat was held in early April. Fabian Garcia is the new President. New president wants to reorganize format of the board and create committees to be in charge of a different activities.

The Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting ended at 1:03 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Gunther