

City of Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara Sister Cities
JULY 3, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Margaret Saavedra called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: Margaret Saavedra, Chair; George Lilly, Kotor; Margarita Gonzalez Zaske, Miraflores; Bonnie Carroll, Puerto Vallarta; Jill Stassinos, Weihai; Linda Mathews, Toba; Alternate Council Liaison; Oscar Gutierrez; Mayor Randy Rowse; Holly Perea, Mayor/Council Representative; Linda Gunther, Staff Representative

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: George Lilly moved to accept the May 1, 2024, board meeting minutes and Bonnie Carroll seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Margaret Saavedra announced that all the Annual Reports were turned in and she thanked the Committees. She also announced that the Interviews for the open position on this board will be conducted in the Fall.
- Mayor Rowse announced that there is an “Emeritus Program” that might help us keep Sister Cities that do not meet the strict criteria for a continuing Sister City, and they would not be dissolved. It was suggested that this idea be placed on a future agenda to form a committee to research it.
- Also, a member suggested that there not be two sister cities in one country and would like a discussion of this on a future agenda.

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.

OCTOBER 10, 2024, INTERNATIONAL DINNER @ CABRILLO PAVILION: A discussion was held about the dinner; all Sister City’s flags (3X5) should be given to Holly Perea. There was a suggestion of a potluck with a dish made especially to represent each of our Sister Cities.

REPORT FROM SO CAL – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SISTER CITIES (SCI):

- CA ASSEMBLY BILL AB 506 AND HOMESTAY PROGRAMS
- CA AB 506: Reviewed by Kristen Decker, Walnut Creek

New bill requires homestay families to carry insurance and to be fingerprinted. Any persons that spend more than 32 hours overall working with students are required to be fingerprinted. The cost is minimal. This is not a new practice it has just been extended to homestay programs. Not purchasing insurance is a risk to the entire board, should an issue arise and if the board is not in compliance with the insurance, lawyers get involved. mandatedreporterca.com/training/volunteers and oag.ca.gov/fingerprints/agencies

- San Diego Yokohama Sister City for Mission Bay High School Jazz Band Exchange:
 - Masai Kenya and UN - chat is at <https://mychosenvessels.org/>
 - Entrepreneur Program for middle school and high school students link to my-tea.org
 - Afghanistan Flowers for the Future –<https://www.flowersforthefuture.org/>
Providing high school diplomas for young women wanting to become doctors
 - To develop our Sports Diplomacy Initiative contact Michael McQuary drmcquary@icloud.com
- REPORT FROM SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI): The Sister City International: All Americas Summit was held in San Antonio, Texas, from May 28 – 31, 2024.
 - Bonne Carroll attended and gave a report. She stated that it was very interesting and beneficial for her to attend. Bonnie Carroll also mentioned that there are lots of Sister Cities and things need to be updated “Out of the box.”
- REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:
 - Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly, Representative, showed a video of Kotor. He also announced that there will be a Navy Seabees Jazz competition and at the YAAS meeting there was a service for the Poet Laurant.
 - 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 of the International Firefighter Training Academy provides donated materials and equipment to Mexico and training for personnel in the use of the equipment. Their motto: ‘We Save Lives’
 - Miraflores, Peru: Margarita Gonzales Zaska:
 - The first delegation to Miraflores, Peru was successful with 48 members, including the Mayor and Councilmember Oscar Gutierrez.
 - Miraflores wants to create training for students here in gastronomy and culinary arts.
 - Plans are being made to attend the Peru Independence Day celebration in Los Angeles on Sunday, July 28th. The cost is \$50 per person for transportation, and free admission. This will be a big celebration with food, dancing and cultural events. More information will be given when it is available.
 - Patras Greece: George Papazacharioudakis reported in spite of a few setbacks there will be a visit to Greece and Patras in September, about 35 people will be going.
 - Patras is planning a student exchange at the end of June.
 - A mini–Greek Festival was held on Friday and Saturday June 27-28 across the street from the Hilton Hotel.
 - Toba, Japan: There will be a student exchange on July 7. A pool party will be held to welcome the students on July 29. The Santa Barbara students will leave on August 7 and return on August 17.

- 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.
-Weihai is also planning a train trip to Chinatown in LA and to Huntington Gardens.
-Board Retreat: A board retreat was held in early April. Fabian Garcia is the new President. The new president wants to reorganize the format of the board and create committees to oversee different activities.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Gunther

.