

**US/Mexico Sister Cities Association, Inc.
Board of Directors' Meeting
Hermosa Beach Community Center
Sunday, March 7, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by President Connie Goertz at 10:00 a.m.

Board members present: Connie Goertz, Bob Perez, Alice Vazquez, Tony Gonzalez, George Barks, Dolores Cobarrubias, Amparito Doolittle, Jeff Failing, Ana Flores, Frances Madrigal, Ralph Mundia, Jose Luis Rodriguez, Greg Pettis, Don Goertz, Matt August.

Board members excused: Gus Guevara, Aida Lerma, Georgiana McLeod. Blanche Gomez left after the lunch break due to death in family.

Board members unexcused: Gil Garcia, Rebecca Amezcua, Juan Nunez, Ernesto Villegas, Al Contreras, Marge Voigt.

Guests: Gloria Gonzalez, Richard Madrigal, Joe Vazquez, Carmencita, Toni Cervantes,

We were led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Financial Report: It was noted that a CD was cashed in order to make payment to the Doral Hotel for the conference. The balance left after payment to the hotel to be placed in the general fund. Motion made by George, seconded by Bob that Treasurer's report be approved. Motion carried.

President's Report: President Connie Goertz once more gave thanks to George Barks and Amparito Doolittle for their assistance in setting up the rooms for this weekend's retreat. Connie also indicated that she looks forward to 2010 being a good year for us.

Old Business: We have an invitation from Patrick Madden to attend the SCI 54th Annual Conference which is to be held in Albuquerque in July. Need ideas for presentation. We have note pads. Greg recommended a map of the world showing where we have sister city affiliations. Also a collage of pictures.

The official approval of Blanche Gomez, Don Goertz and Matt August as Directors-at-Large was then asked of the Board. Approval re-affirmed.

As a point of information, it was noted that Fremont Bank was having problems.

Committee Reports:

- a. City Awards: It was recommended that we maintain these awards at four thereby maintaining their exclusivity.
- b. By-Laws: Changes to be made in accordance with the notes presented at the Workshop by Delia regarding conference registration percentage increase for late registration; delegate letter of intent.
- c. Conference: Discussion re possibility of having a one-day conference, say on a Saturday. Difficulty in finding a city willing to host. Three possible locations for 2011: Riverside (to be researched by Bob); Las Vegas (to be researched by Jeff); Bakersfield (to be researched by Tony); and Anaheim (to be researched by Dolores). For possible retreat locations: San Diego; Anaheim; and Bakersfield. In order for a conference to be successful, we must have sponsors. Finances are scarce and time is of the essence. Sponsors would have their names placed on a banner and in the program.

Ralph/Annie Mundia are donating a diamond ring to be raffled off at the next conference to stimulate attendance. Ralph and Annie have always been most supportive of all of our events. It was recommended that the 2011 conference be held January 28-29-30, 2011. Motion made by George, seconded by Delia. Motion carried.

We should start working on a list of events and what board members will be responsible. Sister city involvement is necessary. Each board members is responsible for informing each of their dues paid city of the conference and urge their attendance. We also need the El Monte youth input for the conference. They need to be made a part of it as opposed to being separate. They should have a workshop with their choice of topic.

Matt will go through the Parks/Recreation Dept. as well as Sister City leaders and family members, for students with good grades. Dolores will work on a workshop on how to start a youth group.

Bob Perez would like the dates of Sister City meetings so that he can attend.

- d. Corporate/Sponsors: As indicated under "Conference" above, corporate sponsors are a necessity.
- e. Directors' City Reports: Ana Flores reported they have donated 140 t-shirts to Tepic. They have a new project which is securing Braille equipment; securing a wheelchair for a handicapped student at Cerritos College; and shipping medical equipment to Tepic. Paramount will be hosting an event on May 15.

Frances Madrigal reported on the Azusa/Zacatecas relationship. They have been having successful functions. They are having only quarterly meetings as

they are having problems with people attending meetings any more frequently than this. They will be manning a fireworks booth, hosting dinners, having a mariachi event on August 11 and various dinners. They are not planning any exchanges.

Amparito Doolittle reported on Hermosa Beach/Loreto and that they delivered a wheelchair to Loreto. They will also be participating in the Tri-Cities Cinco de Mayo festivities.

Greg Pettis reported on Cathedral City's hosting of the recent conference. They have also participated in the Bomberos' Training and will be cooperating with the Rotary Club in "El Grito" for the 16th of September.

Blanche Gomez reported the Canoga Park/Taxco. They meet monthly and have regular fundraisers. They will be hosting a Cinco de Mayo function on May 9 at the Women's Club with a prize to the highest ticket seller of two roundtrip plane tickets to two couples. They will be having a Dia de Los Muertos fundraiser to establish a memorial fund to enable the placing of a plaque in Taxco on the actual Dia de Los Muertos with a mass at the Church of Sta. Prisca in Taxco.

They are trying to invite younger individuals (not youth) to join.

Delia Nevarez indicated that San Gabriel will be celebrating its birthday on April 23-24. The Senior Citizen of the Year will be selected on April 25; Vickie Carr will be appearing at their Mariachi Festival; the artist in Celaya has sent a mural to San Gabriel and is looking for a visa. Delia's daughter, Tootsie's, husband has medical equipment available to him for disposal. Hermosa Beach promptly requested 2 wheelchairs.

Jose Luis Rodriguez indicated that Palmdale had hosted a Valentine's Day event, he presented the two plaques to Chuck Medicus at the City Council meeting. Palmdale Sister City meets twice a month on Saturdays and are expecting a visit in October from their Sister City Poncitlan.

Jeff Failing reported on Rosarito Beach and Puebla. He has donated computers to Puebla. Huntington Park has built a new school (K1-5) in Rosarito Beach. They donated material/paint and uniforms for the children. Donated to the construction of an olympic pool which is open to all and are now working on a Boys & Girls Club.

George Barks reported on his various sister cities. March 24-April 4, 18 students will go to Loreto, B.C. for one week and from July 15-22, Loreto students will be here. The La Paz/Redondo Beach visit will be for 4 days to orphanages and school to deliver donations. Santa Rosalia/Manhattan Beach had their student exchange in February.

Matt August indicated the El Monte Sister City Committee has been somewhat slow, but the youth association has been very busy. The pancake breakfast benefitting the Bobby Salcedo Memorial Fund. The Moose have adopted the youth, students in the 9-12 grade, instructing them in stranger danger, drugs and alcohol. There will also be a Relay for Life on May 1-2 with youth activities. They will have their fireworks stand in July, their annual beach party at Huntington Beach and the annual haunted house.

Tony Gonzalez reported on the hosting of our PV guests in Bakersfield during last year's visitation. Alice reported that Santa Barbara will be promoting the SCI Art Contest and artists will be judged on April 12.

Bob Perez said Monterey Park had celebrated Mardi Gras, will be participating in the Cinco de Mayo.

Connie Goertz reported that San Diego still does not have a House of Mexico. The Carlos Terres statue is at the cemetery. The annual membership dinner is attended by older members. San Diego has 14 sister cities and a mayor who is not interested.

f. Finance: Our P.O. Box needs to remain in L.A. County. Matt will periodically pickup contents of box and forward to Connie. The National Committee works on a calendar year fiscal year. Tax returns are due May 15. If you make \$25,000 or less, no filings are necessary. Last filings 3 years ago.

g. Grants: Don Goertz will submit grant information to Jose Luis for the newsletter.

h. Government Relations: Bob Perez meets with mayors as to their involvement with sister cities.

i. Remains the same.

j. Nominations: Dolores will work with Jeff.

k. Don Goertz indicated that Morelos has a significant number of sister cities and Jalisco has some.

l. USMSCA/SCI - Mexico Track: Conference in Albuquerque, NM. Check out the Texas League of Cities.

m. Ways & Means: Ralph/Annie Mundia are once again in charge of the BBQ which will be held on Sunday, June 6, at the Alta Vista Community Center in Redondo Beach. Price will be \$20/per person. Ann will provide entertainment. There will be a booze basket and money hat. The fee for the park is \$100 and is

all inclusive. Each director is expected to purchase 2 tickets. There will be a sign-up sheet at our May meeting.

n. Website: The website renewal has been paid. The URL has been renewed for 5 years.

o. Young/Youth Adults/Education: As to scholarships, there is a discrepancy in the amount given. Also, where are the students? There are no thank you's. The money should go to the schools and not the student, to seniors in high school. We should check with Kiwanis and Rotary for their criteria. Tabled to our May meeting.

President's Forum: The Directors' Liability Insurance will be coming due shortly which is a substantial amount.

Announcements: The proposed budget will be presented at our May board meeting. Amparito presented Don Goertz with a birthday card with a cup of coffee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. Next meeting will be on May 16, 2010 in Palmdale.



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Respectfully submitted,

Alice M. Vazquez, Secretary