

**US/Mexico Sister Cities Association, Inc.
Directors' Workshop
Hermosa Beach Community Center
Saturday, March 6, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by President Connie Goertz at 9:12 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.

Board members excused: Gus Guevara, Aida Lerma, Georgiana McLeod.

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, Blanche Gomez, Don Goertz, Matt August.

George Barks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President's Welcome: President Connie Goertz expressed her appreciation to all who took the time to attend this retreat. A special thanks to George Barks and Amparito Doolittle. George for securing the location for us at no cost. And Amparito for the lovely mini-Mexican pastries. We are looking forward to a positive and productive year.

At this point, President Goertz recommended Blanche Gomez, Don Goertz and Matt August as Directors-at-Large. After discussion, George Barks moved, seconded by Jose Luis Rodriguez. Motion passed.

Finances: It was noted that a total of \$675 was made from the liquor basket at the conference. The total for the 2009 BBQ was \$1,248.

Youth Activities/Involvement: Discussion centered around whether or not to continue having Youth Ambassadors. Matt August voiced his support of the Youth Ambassador Program. President Connie Goertz suggested perhaps having a Youth Advisory Group with Matt as chair. George Barks moved, seconded by Jeff. Motion passed. Greg Pettis asked how many cities had youth groups. These are the Beach Cities, Gardena, and El Monte. President Connie Goertz will be sending a letter to all cities requesting information concerning their youth activities. Ana Flores mentioned that Paramount is basically all senior citizens. The El Monte youth group is open to other youth.

Delia Nevarez will be working with Matt August on the SCI Leadership training to be held in Washington, D.C. for one week starting on April 7, entitled "Youth Ambassadors."

Newsletter Committee/Format/Circulation/Editor: We need a newsletter committee and editor. And we need each board member to contribute to the newsletter. There is also to be a Youth Corner. After considerable discussion, Jose Luis Rodriguez from Palmdale has accepted the position of editor. Once more, after considerable discussion, the next newsletter will be out on June 30, 2010. Deadline for submission of articles will be June 1, 2010. It was suggested that board members distribute the newsletter to their own sister city members. Also, the possibility of advertising in the newsletter was raised as well as possibly sending the newsletter to members of the League of California Cities and the National League of Cities. George Barks will look into this.

New Brochure Proposal Ideas/Revision - Committee: Can Jose Luis do it? How about the youth? A new face photo is needed on the front and inside possibly a youth picture. What would price be? Incentive: \$150 plus room/Registration at conference proposed by Blanche Gomez.

Deadline for ideas/revisions will also be June 1, 2010. Not glossy. We hope to have this to take to the SCI conference in Albuquerque in July.

Committees: See separate report.

Directors & Assigned Areas: See separate report.

Bylaws - Revisions: Delia Nevarez has noted some changes which might be well to make and will be researching this matter.

Standing Rules - Revisions: Delia Nevarez will be researching this matter.

Officers & Board Member Duties: To be discussed at Board Meeting.

Directors at Large - Discussion of Appointments: Confirmation of appointees at Board Meeting.

Board Contact Information & Post Office Box Location: P. O. Box location cannot be changed. Matt August will be checking the mail box for the Board.

Conference - Review & discussion of Cathedral City Conference: Greg Pettis gave a breakdown of the finances for the 2010 Conference in Cathedral City. Total paid by USMSCA to Doral was \$5,534.93. Greg's explanations were precise and he indicated that had all attendees at the conference stayed at the hotel, this deficit may not have occurred. It is most important that this point be remembered for future conferences.

Conference - 2011: Possibility of Bakersfield for the 2011 conference. The retreat for 2011 was also discussed. Possibilities were either Bakersfield or San Diego.

Riverside has been courting and two hotels have sent proposals, but they need a guarantee of 105 nights. The costs are somewhat prohibitive. Jeff Failing will check into hotels in Las Vegas and Dolores Covarrubias will check on hotels in Anaheim.

Inventory: The USMSCA laptop and scanner have been turned over to Alice Vazquez. There are no remaining crystals or pins. As a point of information to the Board. The gifts which were given to the panelists at our recent conference were personal gifts made by President Connie Goertz and not a debit on the USMSCA account.

Future Board Meeting Dates (3) for 2010: May 16, 2010 in Palmdale; August 22, 2010 at the Mundia residence; November 21, 2010 in Cathedral City.

Open Forum: Jeff Failing would like to see new member sign-up brochures.

The workshop meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m. Board meeting will start tomorrow, Sunday, March 7, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice M. Vazquez, Secretary