



June 8, 2022 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
Minutes

I. Call to Order | Approval of the June 8, 2022 Minutes

II. Roll Call:

Board

Ms. Victoria Philips - Present
Ms. Kenia Zamarripa - Present
Mr. Mary Abad - Present
Ms. Melissa Floca - Absent
Mr. Andre Kwan - Present
Mr. William Roberston-Geibel - Present
Mr. Gustavo De La Fuente - Present
Ms. Karen Higareda - Present
Mr. Paul Marttila - Present
Mr. Lucas Coleman - Present
Ms. Leila Naderi - Present
Ms. Sydney Roff - Present
Ms. Miri Ketayi - Present
Mr. Joel Valenzuela - Present
Mr. Dennis Michael-Broussard - Absent
Mr. Brian D'Amico - Absent
Mr. Richard Bainter - Absent

City Staff

Rita Fernandez, Executive Director - Present
Javier Gomez, Senior Advisor of Policy and Council Affairs/LGBTQ+ Liaison - Present

III. Virtual Oath - taking for new IAB members

- Alex Flores, Deputy City Clerk
 - All six nex IAB members took oath
 - Mr. Paul Marttila
 - Mr. Lucas Coleman
 - Ms. Leila Naderi
 - Ms. Sydney Roff
 - Ms. Miri Ketayi

- Mr. Joel Valenzuela

IV. Update from Mayor's Office

- Rita Fernandez, Director of Global Affairs
 - Rita shared with the board her departure as she will be leading the new Office of Immigrant Affairs
 - Rita assured the IAB that the someone from the city will be posting and preparing the July IAB meeting
 - Sarah, Binational Affairs Manager, shared with the board that she departed the City of San Diego to focus on other responsibilities at home, but shared that she will be working on the Mayor's re-election campaign in 2023
 - Rita introduced two new individuals attending the meeting: Randy Reyes (Global/Immigrant Affairs Intern) & Javier Gomez (Mayor's Office, Senior Advisor of Policy and Council Affairs/LGBTQ+ Liaison)

V. Motion on IAB Actions to Increase the City of San Diego's International Engagement

- Kenia Zamarripa, Vice Chair
 - Kenia went over the notes from the previous board retreat discussion about increasing San Diego's international engagement
 - Serving as liaisons by looking at hosting an annual forum or creating an alternative annual report which will allow the board to highlight San Diego's global engagement
 - Highlighting San Diego as a welcoming city, especially for refugees. This includes a visit to a refugee center by the IAB.
 - Exploring with the World Design Capital and binational relationship with Tijuana.
 - Engage and promote sister city ties via joint celebrations and being more intentional with this relationship.
 - Board members asked questions to clarify all of the items before a motion was made
 - Leila Naderi proposed all four items can be combined under the first item: annual forum with all of these items as topics of discussion
 - Motion for all four items was passed.

VI. Guest Speaker - Global Compact of Refugees

- Mandi Lindner, US Public Engagement, UN High Commissioner for Refugees
 - Ms. Linder works in the DC office and helps educate Americans and others across the world about the importance for assistance to refugees
 - Shared with the board a presentation

- Discussed why cities are a hub for refugees
 - Defined what the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) is: the pledging of an action to help support refugees in any capacity
 - Explained the benefits of making a pledge: network, advocacy, and awareness & solidarity
 - Provided some resources to engage with the GCR
 - Offered the History of GCR in San Diego with Mayor Gloria's Office
 - Mayor Gloria signed #withRefugees statement of solidarity in Nov 2021
 - Drafted a pledge to GCR through actions and initiatives already in place such as Welcoming San Diego strategic plan
 - Continue to support refugees and asylum seekers through the Welcoming San Diego initiative and making progress on recommendations made in the Welcoming San Diego strategic plan.
 - Propose a resolution affirming San Diego as a welcoming city that promotes policies and programs that foster inclusion for all.
 - In collaboration with resettlement agencies and other organizations in the city, continue to support the celebration for refugee, asylum seekers, partners, and key stakeholders during the region's annual World Refugee Day celebration organized by the San Diego Refugee Forum.
 - Help lead coalitions of local municipalities and mayors across the United States through national networks including the U.S. Conference of Mayors Border Policy Committee and the Cities For Action network, which San Diego co-chairs, to share best practices and advocate for inclusive immigration policies and programs.
 - Shared that in May 2022: Boston became the first city to sign a joint pledge to the GCR and GCM during the International Migration Review Forum
 - World Refugee Day: June 20, 2020
 - High-Commissioner is planning to visit California in Sept. 2022
- Questions for Ms. Linder were asked by the board members

- Mary Abad asked Rita Fernandez about how the Office of Immigrant Affairs would implement these initiatives and would handle refugee affairs
 - Rita offered her plans with the Welcoming San Diego strategic plan and what other policy ideas she plans to work on at the Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Motion was made to have the executive committee draft a letter to the Mayor encouraging the city to participate in the GCR and sign a pledge to advance the goals of the compact.

VII. Motion to Support the City of San Diego's participation on the Global Compact on Refugees

- Motion was passed unanimously to draft a letter to the Mayor to participate in the GCR

VIII. Discussion on IAB Committees on Working Groups

- Four potential leaders/groups for the four items discussed earlier to increase San Diego's International engagement
 - First Group Led by Andre
 - Second Group Led by **Nathan**
 - Third Group Lead by Karen
 - Fourth Group Lead by **[name]**
 - All board members can sign up for the different groups and work with each other and prepare for the next meeting to further discuss

IX. Chair's Report

X. Board Member Updates and Announcements

- Mary Abad wanted to alert the board about a call with Rita and UCSD with the UN Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary Local Review (VLR) report
- New members were asked to prepare a short introductions about themselves for the next meeting
- Leila Naderi shared a link to a series of international business talks
- San Diego Diplomacy Council is having their Annual Partner Appreciation Event on July 1st

XI. Adjourn

Next meeting July 13, 2022