



# International Affairs Board

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2017

IAB Conference Room 1010 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave 1325

12-4:15pm

**Present:**

Bruce Abrams  
Kathleen Charla  
Deborah Flores  
Jordan Marks  
Caroleen Williams

**Present:**

Rebecca Morales  
George Novinger  
Patricia Waller  
Bob Morris

**Excused:**

Mark Leo

**City Staff:** David Graham

**Executive Director:** Joel Day

**Intern:** Stephanie Aviles

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**Call to Order:** Bruce Abrams @ 12:35 p.m.

**Non-Agenda Public Comment:** None

Chair Abrams called the retreat to order and ED reiterated discussion of Retreat Pt. 1. Retreat memo (summary found in Dec meeting minutes).

ED introduced David Graham, Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the City. Mr. Graham introduced himself and the rationale behind elevating the IAB to ED level of management. He indicated the City’s desire for the IAB to be the “front porch” of San Diego for delegations, visitors, and international affairs. The role of the IAB is thus the role of a facilitator.

Thirty minutes was then spent discussing **Global-San Diego Themes:**

- Entrepreneurs
- Education, knowledge capital
- Innovation, diversity
- High tech, educated workforce
- Border, binational region, mega region, diverse labor force
- Climate, beach, tourism, recreation
- Work play lifestyle
- Neighborhoods
- Culture, theater, arts
- Well-managed city, solutions focused
- Multicultural, accepting, welcoming
- Military town
- Beer, wine, food

Also a discussion of some of SD’s weaknesses including homelessness, equity in innovation, and

keeping people here in the City.

All of the themes discussed boiled down into three silos:

**San Diego is**

- 1) **Innovative**
- 2) **Sustainable**
- 3) **Multicultural**

Next, the board spent 20 minutes discussing SD's Neighborhood Global Identity. The IAB discussed areas such as

|                                                           |                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Cowel's Mtn and San Carlos                                | Parks, trails, and Balboa                   |
| North Park and Breweries                                  | Hillcrest and LGBTQ leadership              |
| Beach Towns                                               | Coronado and Military Hubs                  |
| The Gaslamp                                               | Little Italy                                |
| Local Markets                                             | Town Councils and Community Planning Groups |
| City Heights, Mera Mesa and areas of ethnic concentration |                                             |

The third discussion lasted for about 15 minutes and centered on **Global Public Policy Issues**. The IAB agreed uniformly that the board should be a panel of experts telling decision-makers how global issues impact life here in San Diego. Potential topics to explore are refugees, human trafficking, tourism, customs processing and border efficiency, international students and helping visiting/new populations get resourced for life in SD. Discussion of a centralized office of international resources.

The ED then turned the meeting towards the task of writing out a 2-year workplan around three agreed upon strategies, several tactics to achieve those strategies, and two year targets for accomplishments. This information is available in the excel spreadsheet addendum. Due to time constraints the Chair directed the ED to fill in remaining categories of the 2016 Baseline, progress made to date, and the human, monetary, and political capital needed to achieve goals. The ED will report back to the Chair and Vice Chair on the workplan and discuss at the next meeting.

The IAB spent 20 minutes discussing potential municipal code changes to the IAB charter, continuing the discussion from December. Concern was raised by Boardmembers Waller, Flores, and Marks about whether now was an appropriate time to make such sweeping changes. Concerns included the size and scope of the board, attendance of a larger board based on current lack of attendance at lower numbers, and questions about why the IAB should report to Council. Discussion and debate occurred on the merits of change. Chair Abrams ended the discussion by establishing an ad hoc subcommittee to evaluate proposed muni code changes consisting of Jordan Marks, Kathleen Charla, George Novinger, and the Chair. The committee is to report back within 45 days (2/23).

The governance of the body was then discussed for 15 minutes. The IAB established two standing subcommittees for the next two years, one on **Public Policy**, and another on **Outreach**. The outreach subcommittee will oversee issues like Friendship Cities, an awards ceremony, outreach to international organizations and the community. The public policy committee will oversee the annual report, letters of support or advocacy, a public input forum, and specific research on policy issues as they arise.

Sitting on Outreach Subcommittee: Bob, Jordan, Kathy, Patricia, Rebecca

Public Policy Subcommittee: Caroleen, Deborah, George, Mark

The Chair will appoint subcommittee chairs at a future date.

The ED shared with the IAB his plans for compiling the 2016 annual report and will rely on the public policy committee for input in February and March.

The body adjourned at 4:25 and then attended the Mayor's State of the City at 6 p.m.