



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD

Meeting Minutes:
March 19, 2013

Economic Development

1200 Third Avenue, 14th Floor, Large Conference Room, San Diego, CA 92101 - 619.236.6364

Present:	Present:	Excused:	Guests:
Emiliano Aragon	Bob Morris	Gloria Cazares	Wendy Lucas-Meyer
Deborah Flores	Patricia Reeve		
Donovan Geiger	Elizabeth Robles		
Alfonso Hernandez	Pamela Thorsch		

City Economic Development Staff: Adrienne Turner, Lydia Moreno

Mayoral Staff: Molly Chase, John Ringgold

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**Call to Order:** Chair, Donovan Geiger @ 9:08 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes** – The February 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

**Introductions:** Alfonso Hernandez introduced himself (appointed to the board in November this was the first meeting he had attended). Other board members likewise introduced themselves.

**Guest Speaker:** Donovan Geiger announced that the scheduled speaker Italian Vice Consul Roberto Ruocco had been called away at the last minute to a meeting in Los Angeles.

**Action Items and Information Reports:**

Donovan Geiger reported to the board on the brainstorming committee meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> (board attendees: Donovan Geiger, Pamela Thorsch, Deborah Flores, Bob Morris). A copy of the PowerPoint presentation on a Global Communication Center, given by city staff Adrienne Turner, was distributed. Other ideas at the meeting included assisting the Mayor’s office with transportation to cross border events such as the Tijuana Innovadora (Pamela Thorsch had researched bus/coach costs); coordinating with the San Diego Consular Corps; attending cultural events; business cards and name tags for board members; ways to assist with the Balboa Park 2015 Centennial Celebration.

How to get on distribution lists for international events was asked. Staff responded that board members can sign up to receive the World Trade Center San Diego’s emails on all their events. Also, The San Diego Participant Observer, is an online resource for multicultural and International Events covering the San Diego region.

Coordinating international events with the World Trade Center and the San Diego Diplomacy Council including ethnic foods was suggested. Publicity would be needed to promote the events. Staff responded that Irene McCormack, Director of Communications in the mayor's office, coordinates press releases.

In response to the Mayor looking for ideas for appropriate gifts to give to visiting foreign dignitaries, Pamela Thorsch suggested a commissioned piece of art by James Hubbell.

Board members discussed the various ideas and agreed to draft a proposal with a budget to present to the Mayor. The Mayoral staff attending the meeting indicated they would need to receive the budget by the end of the following week to meet the current budget cycle timeframe.

John Ringgold, mayoral ambassador, stated the Syrian American Council of San Diego was holding events to raise money for the refugees – women and children were being victimized. If board members knew who could help to let him know.

Future Guest Speakers: Donovan will try to reschedule San Diego Consular Corps.

**Adjournment:** Donovan Geiger adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** TBD

**If unable to attend meeting, call Adrienne Turner at 619.236.6364 or email at [aturner@sandiego.gov](mailto:aturner@sandiego.gov)**

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