



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD

Meeting Minutes:  
October 18, 2013

**Economic Development**

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

---

<b>Present:</b> Emiliano Aragon Gloria Cazares Deborah Flores	<b>Present:</b> Donovan Geiger Bob Morris Pamela Thorsch	<b>Excused:</b> Alfonso Hernandez Patricia Reeve	<b>Guests:</b> Bruce Abrams Laura Araujo Suzie Ditmars	<b>Guests:</b> David Edick, Jr Linda Feldman Bertha Hernandez Kate Leonard Jacqueline Parker Lisa Shackly Ping Wong
--	---	--	---	--

**City Economic Development Staff:** Adrienne Turner, Lydia Moreno

**Mayoral/Council Staff:**

~~~~~

**Call to Order:** Chair, Donovan Geiger @ 9:10 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes** – The revised June 2013 and the July 2013 minutes were approved unanimously. (no meeting in August, no quorum in September)

**Guest Speaker:** Laura E. Araujo, Director, Bi-national Affairs and Leadership Program of the Tijuana Innovadora Conference, made a presentation covering the history of the conference, a socio-economic overview of the San Diego-Tijuana Region, discussed the development plans for their scheduled 2014 Conference, the collaboration being developed with the 2015 Pan-American Balboa Park Centennial and the proposed development of a San Diego-Tijuana Conference for 2016.

The launch of the 2014 Tijuana Innovadora Conference was made the week before the October IAB meeting, and therefore IAB was able to provide a sneak preview of the proposed San Diego-Tijuana Region development, encouraging other organizations to work towards a collective goal.

Meeting attendees included representatives from the Canadian and Japanese Consulates, a representative from the Latin America Desk at the World Trade Center, the President of the International Sister Cities Association and World Affairs Council, a businessman representing the Asian Business Assn., a representative from the Jewish Federation-Latin America Dept., and a representative of the House of Pacific Relations, House of Mexico. This diverse group of attendees demonstrates the global interest in developing our region and an area of interest the IAB will continue to pursue to develop relations along these lines.

**Action Items and Information Reports:**

- a. Nominations for the board chair, and approval: Pamela Thorsch was nominated as chair, approved unanimously: Per the Bylaws, the chair selected Donovan Geiger as vice chair.

- b. Propose and approve new meeting day and time: It was determined that Thursdays in the afternoon was the best time for board members. 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month at 4:00 p.m.
- c. Review and approve draft of annual report: Pamela Thorsch asked for feedback on the draft, with the understanding there could be a slight revision after the last IAB meeting in November. (the board does not meet in December) Motion made and annual report was approved with 1 abstention. .
- d. Identification and Approval of future guest speakers: Consul General, Chair of Las Americas, International Schools
- e. Review and approve Letter of Introduction: Pamela Thorsch asked for feedback on the draft letter. Board members submitted comments/edits and approved the final letter.
- f. Items approved to be submitted to the Mayor:
  - 1. Propose the IAB include an Ex Officio Member appointed by the SD County Board of Supervisors to serve on the IAB
  - 2. Approval of Certificate of Recognition to be issued by the IAB. Vetting guidelines/criteria will be required to be drafted for approval at Nov. meeting.

**Discussion Items:**

- a. Update and discussion on status of our 2013 Objectives/Goals approved/proposed in June was re-introduced to the board members for their review.

Board was asked to propose project/committee involvement, suggest speakers, and provide their input for ideas/direction for 2014 forwarding them to the chair in time to be incorporated into the agenda for the November meeting, to be discussed.

Thorsch proposed a community outreach event with an international baccalaureate middle school, Albert Einstein Academy to pilot the outreach. Board indicated interest, and made several suggestions to other schools that outreach program could involve.

- b. Update: Involvement/support with the 2015 Pan-American Centennial Celebration  
Autonomy, the event producers and the 2015 Balboa Park Pan-American Committee have refused to meet and/or involve the IAB in any discussions, and/or seek the IAB assistance with regards to developing the Plaza de Panama with international presentations. The IAB previously hosted a special meeting in July, with invited guests, and provided the Mayor, Autonomy and the 2015 Centennial with information regarding our multi-diverse community where the IAB was informed that the 2015 Centennial would welcome the IAB participation and schedule another time to meet.
- c. Update on: HPR-International Cottages  
Stephen Hill, Interim Chief of Staff to Dist. 3, and Marie Wiggins, Area Manager, Balboa Park Cultural Arts Programs, presented at the HPR October delegates meeting at the request of the International Affairs Board. Discussion was around vision/expectation of Balboa Park and the area that the HPR inhabits, possible considerations to prepare for 2015 Centennial, the status of the needed repairs to the cottages, and how the HPR and Park and Recreation can improve their communication while meeting each other's requirements given limited

funds available. The delegates were very appreciative of their attendance and look forward to future dialogue.

d. Update on Think Tank development with Teddy Cruz

The think tank/incubator has been transferred to Bill Fulton, Director of the Planning Dept. for the creation/oversight. Currently the proposed project is undergoing restructuring, while staff is being hired to implement plans once in place. The project is on hold until further notice, and it is questionable whether or not the proposed plans submitted by the IAB will even be a consideration for incorporation.

e. Development of Sister City – Tijuana-San Diego – Bob Morris

Bob is serving as President of the Tijuana-San Diego Sister City. He requires additional help and support to re-vive this relationship, as this sister city has been dormant for a long time. Bob plans on sending out a request to IAB directors prior to the next meeting listing the areas he needs assistance with.

**Board Chair Report:**

**Announcements:** Report of member activities

**Adjournment:** Pamela Thorsch adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** November 14, 2013

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