

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026
CITY HALL BUILDING
202 C STREET
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM

ITEM I

CALL TO ORDER: The International Affairs Board meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Zamarripa on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101.

ITEM II

ROLL CALL:

Quorum of the Board present

Board

Present:

Ric Bainter
DM Broussard
Lucas Coleman
Aron Davidson
Ben Eastman
Suzanne Svahn
Kenia Zamarripa
Juan Carlos Rivas
Sharazad Kamyab
Scott Tait
Heidi Knuff
Johanne Gnagne

Also Present: Ben Moore (City of San Diego)

Absent:

Hampton Brown
Luc Lenain
Paul Marttila
Melissa Floca
Joel Valenzuela

ITEM III

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ITEM IV

INTRODUCTIONS:

Board members and guests provided introductions.

ITEM V

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes by Ric Bainter, seconded by Lucas Coleman. Approved with no abstentions.

ITEM VI

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Forum:

Members reported positive feedback from the recent forum and expressed interest in continuing the event, potentially hosting it again at the end of October, pending confirmation that it does not conflict with other events or delegations.

Members discussed maintaining a brief program while expanding networking opportunities. A proposed structure included 30 minutes of networking at the beginning, a 1-hour program, and approximately 1 hour of networking at the end so attendees can engage with panelists and enjoy food and wine.

It was suggested that panelists remain during the networking portion to allow attendees to interact with them.

Members also discussed implementing an electronic Q&A format using a QR code for submitted questions or allowing written questions on cards for IAB members to review and select.

The venue received positive feedback, though members discussed potentially rotating locations for future events and exploring partnerships with SDSU or other institutions.

Members noted the need to confirm the current fund balance with SANDISCA. Concerns were raised regarding communication and vendor payment delays as well as prior requests from SANDISCA to increase service costs. The Board may discuss whether to continue the fiscal sponsorship arrangement for 2026.

Additional ideas included offering optional daytime activities for out-of-town attendees, such as a CBX tour, and promoting these opportunities when invitations are first distributed.

Sister Cities:

Members requested a 2026 calendar of events and financial reports for each sister city from SANDISCA.

Members discussed inviting SANDISCA to provide a presentation updating the Board on sister city activities.

Board members suggested receiving written summaries before scheduling a presentation and providing SANDISCA with a suggested reporting template outlining activities, funding, and overall status for each sister city board. This idea was widely supported though not formally voted on.

Major Events:

Lucas Coleman and Kenia Zamarripa will attend an upcoming SANDAG meeting discussing regional planning related to FIFA World Cup and Olympic events, including a presentation from the Southern California Association of Governments regarding mobility and promotional efforts.

San Diego is expected to soon confirm participating national teams for related activities. The Board may explore collaboration opportunities such as team tours or promotional engagement.

Members also discussed potential World Cup watch parties. Possible partners or venues mentioned included San Diego FC and the Padres. Juan Carlos Rivas noted interest from CBX and Mexican consulates.

Members mentioned possible tours of the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center, which may serve as a team base camp, though no teams have been confirmed.

Members also discussed opportunities tied to matches played in Los Angeles and engagement with consulates representing participating countries in Southern California.

ITEM VII

MAYORAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

An invitation from the Mayor's Office regarding the Marseille sign unveiling originally scheduled for February 11 was shared. The event has been postponed; further updates may follow.

ITEM VIII

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lucas Coleman shared information about a Japan Forum organized in partnership with the World Trade Center San Diego on March 9. Invitations had already been shared with IAB members.

Ben noted that he will follow up regarding a potential Mayoral appointment for the Chair position. Members should be prepared to vote for Vice Chair at the next meeting, and interested members were encouraged to connect with Ben.

Ben also mentioned the availability of Zoom meetings for the Board, which could allow consideration of returning to monthly meetings.

ITEM IX

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.