

## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, September 9, 2021

TIME: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Virtual Zoom Webinar

### I. Call to Order | Welcome from Retreat Facilitator, Gerald Brown - followed by welcome from IAB Chair, Victoria Philips

- Roll Call:

#### Board

Ms. Mary Abad	–	present
Ms. Melissa Floca	–	absent
Mr. Andre Kwan	–	present
Mr. Mark Leo	–	absent
Ms. Chandler Martin	–	absent
Ms. Hilda Mwangi	–	absent
Ms. Caroleen Williams	–	present
Ms. Kenia Zamarripa	–	present
Ms. Victoria Philips	–	present
Mr. Brian D’Amico	–	present
Mr. William Roberston-Geibel	–	absent
Mr. Nathan Williams	–	absent
Mr. Dennis-Michael Broussard	–	present
Mr. Gustavo De La Fuente	–	present
Mr. Richard Bainter	–	present
Ms. Karen Higareda	–	present

#### City Staff

Rita Fernandez, Executive Director	–	present
Sarah Moga-Alemany, Binational Affairs	–	present
Rev. Dr. Gerald Brown	–	present

### II. Public Comments

- No public comment

### III. Approval of August Minutes

- Unanimous approval

### IV. Role of the IAB board

- The City of San Diego International Affairs Board’s mission is to promote San Diego’s global identity, encourage cultural connections, foster international economic competitiveness, and advise the mayor and city council on ways that

international issues and policies impact San Diego. Introduction of IAB board members

## **V. Introduction of affair board members**

- a. Andrew Kwan: He has served around 2 1/2 years on board. He moved to San Diego in 2003 and has lived there ever since. His background is in finance and real estate. He has a passion for sharing educational resources and promoting financial literacy. He joined this board because of how business initiatives can help people and minorities in the city.
- b. Mary Abad: This is her 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year on the board. She has a background in banking and finance. Her previous experience includes being a finance volunteer in the peace core and serving 5 years with Asian Development Bank. She has a degree in International Development. She moved to San Diego 10 years ago. Currently, she works for JP Morgan in healthcare banking. Mary joined the board because she feels that San Diego punches below it's weight in the international arena. She feels San Diego deserves more international recognition and recognition for its diversity. She used to love salsa dancing.
- c. Dennis-Michael Broussard: He is from New Orleans and moved to San Diego for graduate school and stuck around. International work is his passion. He plays the cello. Dennis-Michael joined the board as it aligns with his personal mission to improve San Diego's position in the international arena.
- d. Caroleen Williams: She was raised in Utah and worked in medical research through graduate school. She joined the State Department and was Chief of Staff for various committees. During her tenure she participated in the Camp David accords. She has lived in Pakistan and Israel and looks forward to the board's potential. Her talent is line dancing.
- e. Richard Bainter: He is a lawyer and does international democratization work in Eastern Europe particularly Bosnia. He moved to San Diego in 2008. Richard agrees with what others said, "that San Diego punches below its weight in the International Arena". He enjoys meeting people with international interests like those on the board and who interact with it. He used to be a pretty good pool player.
- f. Karen Higareda: She considers herself a Binational citizen. She was born in San Diego and raised in Tijuana. Her background is in international relations. She joined the board out of a love for meeting people who care about the community and want to push the image of San Diego. Her hobby is ceramics.
- g. Kenia Zamarripa: She part of the International Business affairs San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. Her background in recreational fishing and aquaculture. She has a history in international non-profit work through Rotary International. She joined the board to strengthen San Diego's international ties.

- h. Gustavo De La Fuente: He has lived in San Diego for 11 years. Originally from Nogales in Mexico, he has lived in 13 different cities in the last 25 years. Gustavo joined the IAB to elevate San Diego, and because his personality is that of a diplomat. His primary focus is on San Diego's Mexico-US connection. Gustavo has worked in businesses across the spectrum, from small to large, and startup to established business. His talent is singing in the shower.
- i. Brian D'Amico: He moved to San Diego 3 years ago after growing up on the East Coast. Brian works for the San Diego Int'l Airport selling San Diego to the world to getting more non-stop flights to San Diego. Due to his work, the IAB was a natural fit and a chance to learn how to better market San Diego. His talents are playing the piano and identifying the model and airline of planes flying overhead.
- j. Victoria Philips: She was born in Nigeria and grew up in South Africa. She has spent her life traveling the world. She Moved to San Diego three years ago and decided to stay permanently. She has worked in non-profits worldwide. Now she is an NGO consultant. Victoria joined the IAB because she believes in San Diego and the latent potential it has. Her talent is cutting her young boys' hair.

## **VI. An overview of the Global Affairs office, 2021-22 priorities/action items, and timeline**

- **Rita Fernandez, Director of Global Affairs**
- **Sarah Moga-Aleman, Binational Affairs Manager**

Rita and Sarah are the staff liaison from the IAB to the Global Affairs board. The Global Affairs Board works to connect San Diego with the world and advance the city's priorities around the globe. They promote the city's international image as a world-class city and destination. The affairs board team works with numerous regional, binational, and international partners to advocate for San Diego's needs and objectives and to respond to issues impacting our residents.

27.1% of San Diego's population is foreign-born. They come from 115 different countries and speak numerous languages.

The Office of Global Affairs welcomes international delegations, performs city diplomacy, promotes San Diego's global leadership, builds new relationships with other global cities and international organizers, and promotes foreign trade and investment.

- City Diplomacy:
  - San Diego is home to 20 honorary consulates, satellite consulates from the UK and Canada, and a Mexican Consulate.
  - San Diego has 16 Sister Cities around the world. One partner is Jalalabad, Afghanistan and so San Diego has been in contact with their partners in that city due to the current situation in that country.
- Binational Affairs:
  - Relationships with the City of Tijuana, State of Baja California, and the Government of Mexico.

- Cross-border economic development and travel. Non-essential travel restrictions
- POE infrastructure improvement projects and TJRV restoration.
- Border Mayor's Association
- Other topics:
  - Climate change/climate action
  - Infrastructure and transportation
  - Sustainable development goals
  - Global migrations
  - Economic development

Several comments were made about how to utilize our sister city connections.

Several other comments were about ensuring participation of IAB in international delegations.

#### **VII. Announcement of the Executive Committee**

- a. Executive committee: Brian D'Amico, Richard Bainter, Dennis-Michael Broussard
- **Group discussion**
  - **areas of focus/priorities for 2021-22**
    - Immigration and climate change (including Afghanistan)
    - Reviewing and implementing IAB action plan from previous years
    - Reviewing and making recommendation for the development of sister cities
  - **ad hoc committees**
    - There can be ad hoc committees on these issues.

#### **VIII. Review of Brown Act and other regulations**

- a. Annual training
- b. 22-minute overview of the Brown Act

#### **IX. Adjourn**