



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
International Affairs Board

Meeting Minutes:
November 16, 2010
9:00 a.m.

Economic Growth Services
202 C Street, 4th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 236-6320

Present:	Excused:	Unexcused:	Guests:
Cath De Stefano	Donovan Geiger	Walter Lam	David Edick, Jr.
Daniel Abbott	Pamela Thorsch	Ileana Ovalle	Kathleen Roche-Tansey
Gloria Cazares		Elizabeth Robles	Wendy Lucas-Meyer
Jaalin Cheng	City Staff:	Jason Walls	Caroline Nathan
Deborah Flores	Lydia Moreno		
Fred Raafat	Adrienne Turner		
Patricia Reeve	Jaymie Bradford		

Call to Order: **Cath De Stefano @ 9:07am** Cath De Stefano welcomed the guest speakers

Guest Speaker: Wendy Lucas-Meyer, President
San Diego International Sister City Association (San DISCA)

Wendy discussed her 18 years of experience with International Relations and Sister Cities, particularly the Edinburgh delegation and her Tour of Edinburgh with the Edinburgh Sister City Society. Edinburgh hosts the largest arts festival in Europe.

She is currently serving for a 6-month period as president for Sister Cities. Doug Rider, from the Sister City of Vladivostok, Russia will start in March 2011 as President.

The difficulty of keeping some Sister Cities active was discussed. All board members agreed it would be best to divest San DISCA of the Sister Cities that are not active and have no hope of being revived. Five Sister Cities of concern were named:

1. Campinas, Brazil
2. Cavite City, Philippines
3. Tijuana, Mexico
4. Yantai, China
5. Perth, Australia

A lively discussion was held by board members and guests on options for reviving the five Sister Cities.

According to existing Bylaws which cover the inactive status of programs, if no representative from the Sister City attends three consecutive meetings they can be considered inactive. There are contracts between the City of San Diego and the Sister City groups. The question was raised regarding options as to whether or not to dissolve the contracts.

Also discussed was what to do to breathe life into the organizations and keep them active. Suggestions included: succession plans to nurture people to take over leadership so organizations do not rely heavily on one person, and find people in the community to support the programs.

In the past, some organizations have received money from cities which funded a formal office and a paid director, but this is not an option for San Diego.

At the International Breakfast Lalit Acharya, guest speaker, suggested organizations should look to their own resources to operate independently. Cities may have their own International Relations staff and not be able to fund other organizations.

Chicago was mentioned as an example to look at – the city developed a program that included benefits to the city itself.

It was suggested that the Sister Cities do a presentation at the Asian Business Association.

Cath proposed that by the March 2011 IAB meeting, a decision be made on how to proceed.

Guest Speaker: Caroline Nathan

American Women for International Understanding (AWIU)

Speaker Caroline Nathan gave a presentation on the “Mayors for Peace”, a conference of cities led by Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The “Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol”, proposed in April 2008, seeks to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. The Elimination of Nuclear Weapons program started around the world in 1992 with a group of 500 participants and now over 4,000 cities around the world have signed the protocol and advocate for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The nuclear bombing of Japan in World War II resulted in generations of descendants with birth defects.

Caroline gave a copy of the “Mayors for Peace” documents to the IAB and asked for the support of the City of San Diego. Jaymie Bradford from the Mayor’s office mentioned the Mayor had recently signed a proclamation with a similar subject. She would check into it.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Fred Raafat to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2010 meeting as presented. There was a second by Patricia Reeve. The Motion carried (7-0).

Committee Reports:

- **International Breakfast:**

- All agreed the International Breakfast should be an annual event.
- Prior to the next breakfast the IAB needs to build relationships with international businesses and the universities.
- The event will need to have a magnet, a strong draw – such as Condoleezza Rice.

- **Board Development:**

All board members were asked to submit names. Cath and Pat will coordinate after the first of the year.

Chairs Report: Cath De Stefano thanked the Board members for all their work in making the International Breakfast a success.

It was agreed that the IAB meetings should continue to be held at City Hall.

Announcements: Contact List update – international businesses

Adjournment: Cath De Stefano adjourned the meeting at 10:05 am

Next Meeting: January 18, 2011

If unable to attend meeting, call Lydia Moreno at 619.236.6320 or email at lmoreno@sandiego.gov
