



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes:**

March 15, 2011

**Economic Growth Services**

202 C Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Diego, CA 92101

(619) 236-6320

---

**Present:**

Cath DeStefano

Gloria Cazares

Deborah Flores

Donovan Geiger

Walter Lam

Fred Raafat

Patricia Reeve

**Present:**

Elizabeth Robles

Jaalin Cheng

**Excused:**

Daniel Abbott

Pamela Thorsch

**City Staff:**

Lydia Moreno

Adrienne Turner

**Unexcused:**

Ileana Ovalle

Jason Wells

**Guests:**

Doug Rider

**Call to Order:** Cath DeStefano @ 9:07 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the February 15, 2011 meeting were approved by six members of the board. Three members of the board arrived after the vote.

**Committee Reports:**

- a. **Board Development:** Cath asked for a volunteer to work with Denice Garcia, Director of Boards and Commissions, to develop a list of candidates to replace board members with expiring terms. Deborah Flores accepted the task.
- b. **Board Involvement:** In her absence, a report was given on Pamela's contacts regarding IAB participation in the upcoming centennial of the 1915 Pan-American Expo. She'd spoken with Stephen Hill, Council Rep. for District 3, who told her Mike McDowell of Atlas Hotels, which runs the Town and Country Resort in Mission Valley, is the current chair of the Steering Committee. However, the group felt "collaboration with other organizations is a bit premature at this point." It was agreed the parties would stay in touch. Carolyn Wormser, the city's Director of Special Events, is also a point of contact.

It was agreed a series of Guest Speakers reporting on the Cultural Communities in San Diego would further the mission of the Board. A map of the continents was used to identify cultural areas where each Board member had connections. Jaalin agreed he would secure a speaker from the Asian community to speak at the April meeting.

- c. **International Breakfast** – The check list was reviewed. Wednesday, October 19, 2011 was selected as the preferred date for the event to be held at the SDSU-Goodall Alumni Center. Donovan agreed to reserve the venue. It was agreed to wait until May, when the new SDSU President and Dean of the College of Business were expected to be named, to pursue a Guest Speaker for the event. Reaching out to international business leaders and expanding the mailing list were also discussed.
- d. **Special Report – Cultural Communities in San Diego**  
Walter Lam, Alliance for African Assistance, reported on the many services available at the Alliance: Resettlement, Immigration, Employment, Economic Development, Translation and Interpretation, a Thrift Store and a Health Clinic. He gave examples of success stories and the value of the program to not only the African community but to many other immigrants from various countries around the world. The Board agreed the information was very enlightening and an excellent first report for the Cultural Communities in San Diego series.

**Chairs Report:** Cath DeStefano discussed her meeting with Denice Garcia, Director of Boards & Commissions. The ordinance to amend the Municipal Code (and bylaws) to change the number of IAB board members from 15 to 11 should be done by mid to late May.

**Announcements:** Cath DeStefano announced she will stay on until her successor is announced.

**Adjournment:** Cath DeStefano adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** **April 19, 2011**

**If unable to attend meeting, call Lydia Moreno at 619.236.6320 or email at [lmoreno@sandiego.gov](mailto:lmoreno@sandiego.gov)**

---