



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

**Meeting Minutes:**

February 19, 2013 – Special time: 11:00 a.m.

**Economic Development**

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

**Present:**

Emiliano Aragon  
Gloria Cazares  
Deborah Flores  
Donovan Geiger  
Bob Morris  
Pamela Thorsch

**Excused:**

Alfonso Hernandez  
Patricia Reeve

**Unexcused:**

Elizabeth Robles

**Guests:**

David Edick  
Doug Rider  
Ralph Achenbach  
Suzie Ditmars  
Rita Lim  
Walter Lam  
Wendy Lucas-Meyer  
Keshav Damoor  
Ron Powell

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

**Mayoral Staff:** Rev. John Ringgold, Mario Lopez, Jessica Gomez

**Call to Order:** Donovan Geiger @ 11:09 a.m.

**Approval of November 2012 Minutes** – The November meeting minutes were approved. (No quorum at the January meeting).

**Introductions:** Board members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest Speaker:** Mayor Bob Filner talked about the diversity of cultures in San Diego, the importance of learning from other cultures and his plans to open an office in Tijuana. He shared his thoughts for the San Diego and Tijuana (SD/TJ) region:

- SD/TJ share one region and should partner in activities such as: arts and culture; bi-national bands/music across the border; and jointly apply for the 2024 Olympics.
- Both cities are centers of innovation and should work to attract more capital investment.
- SD/TJ should find new ways to market and sell to businesses and to national and political conventions and offer bi-national packages for travelers.
- Emphasized the border is critical and should be made smarter: if the border is more efficient it would be more secure and the wait times to cross the border shorter.
- As chair of the U.S.-Mexico Border Mayors Association, his goal is to reduce border wait times to 15 minutes.
- Discussed the importance of student exchanges and building bridges and not walls.
- He felt Tijuana should play a role in the upcoming Panama Centennial in Balboa Park. He shared his idea to feature a different country/culture for a 2-week period throughout the year-long celebration.
- Stated there needs to be bold and aggressive action to help San Diego become a better city.

The Mayor also felt the IAB could offer assistance to the Centennial organizers. The IAB should become more connected to international and cultural groups. Mayor Filner also stated he is open to ideas regarding appropriate gifts given to visiting foreign dignitaries for the gift exchange.

**Action Items and Information Reports:**

Board members stated they would have a brainstorming meeting to come up with ideas for IAB priorities and activities.

Future Guest Speakers: Donovan will contact the San Diego Consular Corps.

**Adjournment:** Donovan Geiger adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** March 19, 2013

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

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