



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD

Meeting Minutes:
June 18, 2013

Economic Development

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

Present: Emiliano Aragon Gloria Cazares Deborah Flores Donovan Geiger	Present: Bob Morris Alfonso Hernandez Pamela Thorsch	Excused: Patricia Reeve	Guests: Suzie Ditmars
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City Economic Development Staff: Adrienne Turner, Lydia Moreno

Mayoral Staff: Jessica Gomez

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**Call to Order:** Chair, Donovan Geiger @ 9:04 a.m.

**Introduction of Invited Guest:** Jill Secard, Executive Director, San Diego Diplomacy Council

**Approval of Minutes** – The May 1, 2013 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**Guest Speaker:** The planned speaker, Eric Nowacki, Consul of Sweden and President of the San Diego Consular Corps, had a last minute conflict and did not attend the meeting.

**Action Items and Information Reports:**

- a. Implementation of “Request to Speak” forms to assist with compliance of the Brown Act:  
Approved unanimously.
- b. Link the San Diego Participant Observer’s international calendar to the IAB website:  
Approved unanimously.
- c. Compile list of nations for bi-weekly spotlight during 2015 Centennial: Approved unanimously.
- d. Reduce meeting frequency to bi-monthly, change of meeting day to Friday, and designating August and December as permanent “dark months” with no scheduled meetings:  
Board members discussed the need to have meetings on a monthly basis to enable board approval on a timely basis of new action items. The action item was changed to monthly meetings, designating August and December as permanent “dark months” and change of meeting day to Friday at 9:00 am.:  
Approved unanimously.
- e. Approval of future guest speakers:  
Tom Johnson O’Neil, Executive Director of The Worldview Project and the S.D. Participant Observer: July 19 meeting  
Jill Secard, Executive Director, San Diego Diplomacy Council: September 20 meeting  
Representative from the San Diego Consular Corps: October 18 meeting.  
Approved unanimously.

**Discussion Items:**

Creating a venue and/or meetings to bring international organizations in San Diego together: Board members discussed holding quarterly meetings to bring various cultural groups together for panel discussions on diverse topics. Pamela Thorsch asked for volunteers for a committee to formulate a plan for organizing such events. Gloria Cazares, Deborah Flores, Bob Morris and Alfonso Hernandez responded.

Pamela Thorsch had prepared a List of Countries Represented in San Diego and their Affiliations. Also, in response to the Mayors idea for featuring a different country and its culture on a bi-weekly basis throughout the 2015 Centennial year, Donovan Geiger had prepared a list: 2015 Balboa Park Centennial Celebration Bi-weekly International Focus. Both lists were distributed to the board for comments and suggestions.

**Guest Speaker:**

Mayor Bob Filner (arrived at approx. 10:00) to discuss the proposal submitted by the IAB. He reviewed both Pamela's and Donovan's lists and thanked them for their valuable work. The Mayor stated the Balboa Park Centennial Committee was holding a roll-out meeting at 3:00 p.m. that afternoon. Autonomy, the consultant firm hired to coordinate the centennial events, would be giving a presentation and the Mayor felt the two lists would be very helpful to the consultants. He suggested that board members attend the meeting and connect with the consultants.

Pamela Thorsch briefed the Mayor on the board's previous meeting with County Supervisor Ron Roberts. The suggestion of having a county representative as an Ad Hoc member of the IAB was presented and the Mayor responded that he would first want to review the idea further.

The Mayor also discussed his plan for creating an incubator space to be used for creative and imaginative ideas. He said he was working with Teddy Cruz, an architect with goals of using vacant urban spaces for public good. He felt the Global Communications center listed in the proposal submitted by the IAB would be something the board should discuss with Teddy Cruz. Pamela Thorsch committed to setting up a meeting.

The IAB proposal included addressing the issues related to the deferred maintenance and of the international cottages in Balboa Park. Donovan identified a few of the needed repairs stating there was a lot of deferred maintenance and how challenging it was for the cottages to get any work done. Mayor Filner stated that he was aware of some of the issues and directed the IAB to take the initiative and determine the scope of the work and to assist them as possible.

Board members offered various suggestions for the 2015 Centennial including enlisting business and political leaders both domestic and foreign and other stakeholders and organizations for special events, plus showcasing the communities in San Diego.

**Adjournment:** Donovan Geiger adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** July 19, 2013

**RSVP or 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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