



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD

Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2015

Economic Development

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

**Present:**

Bruce Abrams  
Roberto Alcantar  
Deborah Flores  
John Galt  
Mark Leo  
Rita Lim-Wilby

**Present:**

Rebecca Morales  
Bob Morris  
Patricia Waller  
  
**Excused:**  
Emiliano Aragon

**Guests:**

David Edick  
Wade Sherman  
Dr. Patience Onygbule  
Herbert Onygbule  
Chief Innocent  
Mercy Okenwa

**Guests:**

David Slack  
Emily Hill  
Jyothsna Konda  
Eileen Wibbeke  
Godwov Okascar  
Keshau Damoor

**Mayoral Staff:** Don Giaquinto

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

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**Call to Order:** Bruce Abrams, Chair @ 2:00 p.m.

**Non-Agenda Public Comment:** Wade Sherman, San Diego Youth Symphony, discussed the upcoming goodwill China tour this summer. Student musicians are connected with their Chinese peers and create deeper understandings and open doors for future collaborations. They are looking for additional sponsors. The Tour will be aired on KPBS.

**Approval of Minutes:** February 12, 2015 minutes were approved unanimously

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Patience Onygbule, Nigerian Progressive Union.

Dr. Onygbule gave a summary of the Nigerian Progressive Union, an organization that promotes Nigerian culture and creates positive images and relationships for the Nigerian community with a goal to be a Village of Elders for new immigrants coming to San Diego

- Some work that the organization does is to put together health fairs, act as a support network for the community in celebrating child births, family bereavements, celebration of achievements, etc. They also help address conflict resolutions between different members in the community.
- Some areas of difficulty for the organization and community are the negative stereotypes placed on Nigerians (i.e. stereotypes, no central community, low representation in workforce or power structure, and no positive media reports)
- They asked the IAB for recommendations on how to make their organization stronger. John Galt recommended that they should use their non-profit status as a way to create a central organization that can function as the “village of elders” for the community.

### **Action Items:**

- a. Letter of Support Balboa Park Monument  
Bruce asked if there were any questions or comments on the revised letter. The Board approved the letter of support for the House of Spain's initiative to erect a statue of Vasco Nunez de Balboa in Balboa Park.
- b. Approve fundraising by members for annual IAB event  
Bruce discussed putting together an annual event that IAB can host. He gave an example of the Human Relations Commission awards event. Rita mentioned the event needs a purpose that matches the IAB's goals. For example: a "parade of nations" event. Bruce and Rebecca will work on getting the process started with the City and will report back next meeting with updates. Rita to set up a mailing list for events. No action taken.
- c. Election of two board members to be signers on IAB account – use of account  
Deborah Flores volunteered to stay as one of the signers to the account. Bruce motioned Mark Leo should be the second signer due to his position as Secretary-Treasurer (he will replace Donovan Geiger). John Galt seconded. Mark and Deborah were voted unanimously as signers for the IAB account.
- d. Approve Centennial Subcommittee moving forward with plans regarding an event celebrating San Diego's international community in collaboration with the House of Pacific Relations.  
Bob and Deborah reported that it was mutually decided that an evening reception event coinciding with United Nations Day would work best. The Consular Corps could be invited to the event with a plan to present them with an award. A 'parade of nations' would end the ceremony and head into a reception. No action taken.

### **Discussion Items:**

- a. Mayor Faulconer's office – Don Giaquinto  
Don reported on international visitors and activities in San Diego plus upcoming events:
  - i. Delegation from Dubai: discussed Traffic Engineering.
  - ii. Delegation from Columbia: interested in Environmental Services
  - iii. Philippines – Ambassador of Philippines visiting on March 20<sup>th</sup>
  - iv. April 19<sup>th</sup> – San Salvador Launching
- b. Update regarding intern program (Patricia)  
Introduction of new intern Jyothsna. Patricia also asked the board to share any good networks to add to the contact list as the search for new interns continues as replacements are needed. While Patricia is gone during May and June, send all intern information to David Slack and cc: Bruce, Mark and Rita.
- c. Subcommittee progress report on IAB involvement in Centennial Celebration (Bob, Deborah)  
See Action Item d. above.
- d. Subcommittee report on new 2015 projects (Roberto, Bob, Pat, Rita). No report
- e. Report on Panama City- San Diego City sister city charter update (David Edick and Rita)  
Upcoming launch party for sister cities connection  
Proposal will be brought to SanDISCA board on May 14. Will be brought to the IAB in June.  
COPA Airlines are considering the option of flights between Panama City and San Diego.

**Board Chair Report:**

Establishment of a subcommittee containing Deborah, Bob, Rebecca, Bruce and Roberto to assist with a Nigerian presence in the House of Pacific Relations.

Tournament of the Phoenix (international jousting competition at Poway Rodeo Grounds).

What can IAB do to help get their information out to a wider audience?

Each board member to email Emily with recommendations to help increase their visibility.

**Report of member activities:** Reports to be sent to David Slack and Emily.

**Announcements:** Reminder: Bruce out of town for April meeting, Patricia out of town for May and June meetings. Rebecca will reach out to Go Global as a future speaker

**Adjournment:** Bruce Abrams adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** April 9, 2015

**Questions or comments contact: Adrienne Turner at 619.236.6364 or email at [aturner@sandiego.gov](mailto:aturner@sandiego.gov)**