

**Meeting Minutes**  
 April 14, 2016

North Terraces Room, San Diego Concourse, 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Excused:</b>	<b>Guests:</b>	<b>Guests:</b>
Bruce Abrams	Roberto Alcantar	Stephanie Aviles	Esperanza Bunn
Kathleen Charla	Emiliano Aragon	Emily Hill	Hiren Bakrania
Deborah Flores	Mark Leo	George Novinger	Barry LaForgia
Bob Morris	Jordan Marks	Gladys Novinger	Bret Grabowski
Patricia Waller	Rebecca Morales	Gordon Summer	Marnyce McKell
	Rita Lim	Dennismichael Broussard	Oscar Urteaga
			Saba Ozyurt

**Mayoral Staff:** Don Giaquinto  
**City Economic Development Staff:** Adrienne Turner

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**Call to Order:** Bruce Abrams @ 2:10 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** March 10, 2016 minutes were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.

**Non-Agenda Public Comment:** None

**Special Guest:** Barry La Forgia, Founder and Executive Director of the International Relief Teams (IRT) of San Diego: Since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck near Nepal’s capital city of Kathmandu on April 25, 2015, IRT has provided medical kits, emergency shelters and other assistance to the injured and homeless in the devastated area. Now one year later, IRT is helping in the rebuilding of a boarding school and other facilities to restore the area to self-sufficiency. Mr. LaForgia emphasized that the recovery stage, the final stage of a disaster, is often the longest and most difficult. He thanked the IAB for recognizing the efforts of the IRT.

**Speaker:** Gordon Summer, an award winning national and international promotional marketing executive, gave a presentation on the annual U.S. Sand Sculpting Challenge and Dimensional Art Exposition and showed slides of the sculptures from last year. This year’s event will be held over the Labor Day weekend: September 2 to September 5, 2016 on the “B” Street Cruise Ship Pier. They are renaming the city SAND iego™ for the event. 300 tons of sand will be brought in for world master sand sculptors from Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Singapore, Canada and the Netherlands to challenge the best in the U.S. The event will include live entertainment (big bands, singers and more), a sand box and rides for kids and a dozen gourmet food trucks at the bayside location.

Mr. Summer also described a new annual venture: “Magic San Diego Holidays” planned to start in 2017. In conjunction with the San Diego Tourism Authority and the San Diego Downtown Partnership, it will be marketed with packaged activities to make San Diego an international destination over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Key features will include holiday light shows in the downtown area, a Christkindl Market including themed merchandise, gifts, ornaments, arts and entertainment for all ages, plus festive food and drink from around the world.

**Action Items:** None

**Discussion Items:**

**a. Mayor Faulconer's office – Don Giaquinto**

Don discussed creating a special "Friendship City" certificate to commemorate the IAB approval of the relationship. Don talked about the Mayor's upcoming trip to attend the 11th Annual California-Mexico Trade Initiative in Mexico City; the Mayor's fiscal year 2017 budget due to be released the following day; and the Philippine Independence Day event on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**b. Intern Program update and Introduction of Intern Coordinator – Patricia Waller**

Patricia introduced Hiren Bakrania, a new intern for the summer months from Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Patricia and board members thanked Emily Hill for her intern work as it was her last day.

**c. Friendship Cities Program Update**

Rebecca stated she had reached out to the Bora Bora people. Also, Bruce was communicating with them in French. FCP Applications from both Sha'ar HaNegev, Israel and San Borja, Peru have been received and reviewed and will be ready for board action at the May IAB meeting.

Frederic Fournier, Consul and Trade Commissioner, Consulate of Canada sent an update on his contact with Vancouver, Canada. At this time they would not participate. As an alternative, he stated: "I would like to reach out to Québec city. Cultural exchanges could be quite interesting with this French Canadian city."

**d. Friendship Cities Program – procedures for receiving applications**

An email account for receiving FCP applications was discussed. Options to be explored prior to the next IAB meeting in May. Patricia announced she would no longer be a full member of the FCP subcommittee but would still be involved.

**e. Monthly Activity Reports/Annual Report: need bios and photos, submission deadline.**

Stephanie to follow up on photos and bios that still need to be submitted.

**Board Chair Report:** Chair Bruce Abrams deferred to Kathleen Charla for information on board etiquette. Appropriate ways to respond to email was discussed in detail.

**Announcements:** Kathleen will be out of the country in May.

**Report of member activities:** None

**Adjournment:** 3:07 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** May 12, 2016; 2:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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