

PASADENA SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting of September 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Marcia Montez in the Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Helen Kouyoumdjian, Marcia Montez, Philip Montez, Gary Moody, Silvia Ohanian, Ara Sarafian, Rosalinda Schiess, Tamara Silver, Laura Terry, Trude Todd, Michael Warner, Cathy Wei, Carla Boykin, Olivia Bueno, Taliba Carr, Ofelia Cavazoz-Edmonson, Roseline Dauphin, Elisia Farmer, Aulikki Flagan, Margarite Gihanian, Angie Gomez, Nova Hindoyan, Bianca Hoernig, Lena Kennedy, Mary Knox (25). **New Members:** Mary Knox, Trude Todd.

Guests: Natalie Buickians, Tania Endjilian (AGBU Los Angeles Choir. Announcement of Armenian concert Nov.17th, 2019 @ 6pm. For more Info: Instagram @agbulachoir, www.missionopera.com or provided flyer during meeting).

1) **Minutes:** 20 June 2019 approval motion by Marcia Montez second by Gary Moody; passed without decent.

2) **Treasurer's report:** Motion to reimburse the extra cost of the summits during the SCI's Conference for four people \$125 each (receipts are required). Motion by Laura Terry, second by Gary Moody. Motion carries for the extra costs of the 4 people. Motion by Gary Moody, second by Elisia Farmer to pay Pasadena Museum of History \$2,500 for expenses from Senegal visit; After a long discussion it passed with 2 No votes.

3) Committee Reports:

a. Germany – Ross McConnell - Pasadena students Sabrina Minjares and Isabelle Haik have returned from their stay in Ludwigshafen. They had a wonderful time, from all reports and will give their presentations at the October meeting. Kyra Krall visited us in July/August and stayed with six great hosts. Thanks to all the host families, to Pasadena City and Eric Dyshart's office and to Michael Warner for making these arrangements. Kyra enjoyed her stay very much and loved her internship. We received a lovely email from Kyra, who is now enrolled at university in Le Havre, France. She says the city has an industrial vibe, which reminds her of Ludwigshafen. Her classes are in French, she is taking Chinese and has joined the English debate club ... really having to flex her language skills, as none of these are her native German! She says she also joined the environmental club and a documentary project on feminism which she particularly enjoys. Her favorite class is Political Institutions and she says she has a 'waterfall of work' ... mostly reading, reading and reading. A copy of her email is available, if you haven't seen it and would like to. We also received a nice postcard from Sophia Hoffman, one of our visiting students from last year. She enjoyed having Isabelle stay with them for a week. Sophia says she currently visits the library of the University of Mannheim every day to work on her thesis. No other activity currently. Respectfully submitted, Maureen McConnell, Chair PSCC German Subcommittee.

b. Japan – Submitted by Bryan Takeda On July 30, 2019, 11 teens, 1 college student and 2 chaperones will arrive in Pasadena for the Friendship 2019 summer youth exchange program that will run from July 30 to August 6. The university student, Asuka Ashie, will arrive on August 2 and will plan to be in Pasadena for an additional 2 weeks, departing for Japan on August 22.

Miss Misa Okada visit to Pasadena - Thank you to everyone who attended the dinner in honor of Miss Okada that was held on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at the Panda Inn in Pasadena. Miss Okada is very thankful for your hospitality. She has returned to Mishima and has begun her career as a pharmacist at a neighboring city pharmacy. She continues to study English and looks forward to meeting everyone again in the future.

Pasadena – Mishima Exhibition of Women Artists - Bryan was recently contacted by the City of Mishima to see if I can facilitate an art exchange between Pasadena and Mishima in 2020. Earlier this year, a small group led by Mr. Minoru Ohira (sculptor) and Mrs. Echiko Ohira conducted a pre-exhibition in Mishima with the assistance of Ms. Yoko Tamura, representative of the Mishima Art Association and the owner of her own gallery in Mishima. Both Mr. Ohira and Ms. Tamura had participated in exchanges many years ago with Pasadena. I believe Mr. Bruce Hisayasu had been involved with the activities. They have asked me to connect with Ms. Jane Chafin here in Pasadena to work on developing an exhibition to be held in Mishima in the fall of 2020. We are very early in the process and will be connecting with Ms. Chafin and Mr. Ohira to begin planning.

c. Finland – No Report

d. Armenia – Nova Hindoyan There was a summer visit to Armenia by the chair and she was accompanied by the committee members Ara and Vahan. They visited and scouted the potential project of doing repairs and /or playground equipment at kindergarten #33. They also visited the summer camp called "gugark" that Vandazor city hall has invited our youth to, two years in a row. The camp conditions are favorable for westerners and a subcommittee will work on a package for the youth to be present soon. There is another subcommittee that has established, chaired by Mr. David Gevorkyan and Vice chaired by Taleen Hindoyan, for the demolition and new construction of Kindergarten #8. Council Kennedy has been instrumental in moving this project forward and there have been contacts made for fundraising, engineering & design and building. Vandazor City Hall/ foreign relations division, headed by Mrs. Lilya Davitian, will be updating the list of needs of the complete roster of Vandazor's Kindergartens. We will also be collaborating on cultural exchanges instead of solely focusing on humanitarian/repair projects. Thank you for your attention, consideration, encouragement, time and all the effort you put forth for the committee, Taleen.

e. China – No Report. - Announcement: Friday Nov., 22th @ 5-8pm. Thanksgiving party for International Students. Hoping for presence of committee's representatives at this event. Those wishing to attend please RSVP keeping in mind that Pathways has limited funding for this event. Also, during the 3rd week of May, Cathy Wei, will have 6 tables available for the committees during the International Festival at Pasadena City College.

f. Senegal – Gary Moody On September 10, the Dakar-Plateau committee held it's monthly meeting. This was in accordance to a vote of the committee members that the regular meetings will be held the second Thursday of the month. This allows advance notice to members and report to the PSCC monthly meeting the following Thursday.

1. Carla Boykin reported on the two Sister Cities Conventions she attended in July in Houston, Texas and in September in San Diego, CA 2. Laura Terry reported on the PSCC Student Exchange program. 3. Elisa Farmer reported on the status of our website. 4. The projects that are under consideration are: 4.1. A thank-you party for the Planning Committee that organized the mayoral visit in June. 4.2. The return visit to Dakar-Plateau by a delegation led by Mayor Tornek in March 2020. 4.3. An African Market and Festival next Fall. Taliba Carr is the lead person.

Respectfully, submitted Boualem Bousselob, Chair. Senegal subcommittee

g. Ad Hoc Committee Sri Lanka (Senani Abey) – No Report

h. Student Coordinator (Maggie Gihanian) This year we had one student to Armenia, one to Finland, and two to Germany. It was further clarified during the meeting who the Student Coordinator was. Some were not aware of this.

4) SoCal / SCI: Regional Meeting will be Nov. 7th in Santa Barbara, CA; location to be announced.
SCI Annual Conference will be in Florida November 2020. location to be announced.

5) Old business:

a. Laura Terry "Winter Lights" themed dinner. Dinner and installation of new officers. Cost per person \$40 for 80 people at the Brookside – Arroyo Room. Michael Warner motions into consideration of subsidizing \$10 non-members and \$15 members. This will come out of the general funding. Motion was seconded by Gary Moody. Called for questions by Marcia Montez and voting. Passed without objections.

b. PSCC's website needs contact information. Please contact Fred Alcantar or Rob Bowman.

6) New Business:

a. Marcia Montez announced that the new Letter Head must be used for all external business representing PSCC.

b. Please Email Marcia Montez if you wish to be nominated for the 2020 Board of Directors of PSCC.

c. Announcement: Oktoberfest fund raiser for the Trinity Lutheran Church Nov. 3rd. Admission ticket \$20. At door admission ticket \$25.

d. Tamara Silver is campaigning for PCC Trustee election and recently joined the Tournament of Roses Committee.

Next PSCC Meeting: 17 October 2019 – Same location 984 East Locust Street; Pasadena

Michael Warner motion to adjourned at 7:23 pm Seconded by Gary Moody. Passed without objections.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm

Respectfully submitted,

By Olivia Bueno, Secretary