

Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2016

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

Present:	Present:	Excused:	Guests:
Bruce Abrams	Jordan Marks	Kathleen Charla	Hiren Bakrania
Roberto Alcantar	Bob Morris	Rebecca Morales	Kirin Narapyay
Deborah Flores	Patricia Waller	George Novinger	Marnyce McKell
Mark Leo		Caroleen Williams	Fabienne Perlov

Mayoral Staff: Don Giaquinto

City Economic Development Staff: Adrienne Turner

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**Call to Order:** Bruce Abrams @ 2:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** May 12, 2016 and June 7, 2016 minutes were approved.

**Non-Agenda Public Comment:** None

**Guest Speaker:** Fabienne Perlov, Executive Director, San Diego Diplomacy Council (SDDC) gave a presentation on the mission and the activities of the organization: SDDC has a revitalized advisory board, has increased staff and is in an expansion mode. They are currently working on the International Visitor Leadership program with top cabinet members from Scotland. Also, they will be bringing in over 200 international delegates and participants for the Diplomacy Day Gala on October 22, 2016. Moving forward the plan is to increase by 10% the number of international visitors they bring to San Diego through the U.S. Department of State’s Exchange programs. SDDC has a network of over 1,000 professionals and they regularly host dinners and gatherings to facilitate establishing relations between foreign ambassadors and the most appropriate businesses partners in San Diego. They also offer housing accommodations for foreign ambassadors and are looking for more hosts. They work with the Port Authority and San Diego Airport to coordinate red carpet service and assistance for arriving diplomats. Fabienne expressed a strong desire to explore opportunities for collaboration with the IAB.

**Action Items:** None

**Discussion Items:**

- a. August Retreat information – Bruce Abrams and Dr. Danell Scarborough, retreat facilitator. Dr. Scarborough outlined the format for a two-part retreat in August: the first part will be about relationship building and efficiency development. The second part will be for future plans and putting them into practice. Bruce said he hoped to meet with all board members individually prior to the retreat to learn how best they can each contribute to the IAB.
- b. Mayor Faulconer’s office – Don Giaquinto  
 Don expressed some ideas regarding other areas of interest such as a youth commission (similar to one that existed in the past). The San Diego Unified School District has a youth exchange program. Jalalabad and Vladivostok in Russia have such programs.  
 Don reported on delegations from Scotland and Japan that will be visiting San Diego in the near future. Bruce Abrams will be attending the meeting held for the Japanese.

- c. Letters of Recognition or Support – guidelines and criteria  
Documents of previously proposed draft guidelines and criteria for issuing letters of recognition or support were reviewed by the board. Also the board reviewed the template for a Letter of Recognition that had been finalized in 2015. Previous board discussions in 2015 had included concerns over the length of time required to issue a letter if the proposed draft guidelines and criteria were approved. The board had not taken action to approve the drafts.
- d. List of potential attendees for IAB meetings  
Board members had been asked to submit names to add to a master list to use for inviting people to attend the monthly IAB meetings. Bob Morris was congratulated for submitting the most names.
- e. IAB gmail account or Facebook – Deborah Flores  
Deborah Flores is testing out a gmail account. Mark Leo said he could assist with a Facebook Page. Staff indicated the City Attorney’s office had no concern with a gmail account; however, the question of a Facebook page had not been presented to them but would be by the next IAB meeting. Mark and Deborah volunteered to be on the sub-committee for social media.
- f. Friendship Cities Program:
  - Number of cities within the same region to be determined on a case by case basis.
  - Huzhou, China – Bruce Abrams and Kathy Charla: no further activity to report at this time.
  - Bora Bora, French Polynesia – Bruce Abrams: they have a 2-year investment with San Diego. They want to visit the shopping malls and other economic enterprises. They have proposed a canoe event. Bora Bora’s mayor wants to be on the map, so does the mayor from Tahiti. They are competing for relations with San Diego.
  - Sha’ar Negev, Israel – Bruce Abrams: the mayor of the Israeli city will be here. They have wanted this relationship with the City of San Diego for over 30 years.
- g. Administration of Public Relations for IAB activities – Bob Morris will make further contacts and report at the next regular IAB meeting.
- h. Monthly Activity Reports  
All board members should send their reports to IAB intern, Hiren Bakrania

**Board Chair Report:** Bruce attended a memorial service in Orlando, Florida for those lost in the nightclub shootings many of whom were LGBT. It was a first event with the Roman Catholic Church diocese in attendance. He stated it must be acknowledged that the Islamic community is being mistreated due to such terrorist acts and something must be done about it. He noted that 3 countries have labeled the U.S. as unsafe: the UAE, the Bahamas and one other.

**Announcements:** The Taste of the Pacific will be held at the Bali Hai Restaurant on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Report of member activities:** Bruce participated in the Pride World Forum, an event co-sponsored by the San Diego Diplomacy Council, the U.S. State Department and others. Attendees were mostly under 40. He shared with them the history of the American legal court decisions and the countries where LGBT persons are being persecuted.

**Adjournment:** 3:29 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** August 11, 2016 - Annual Retreat - 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.  
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**Questions or comments contact: Adrienne Turner • 619.236.6364 • [aturner@sandiego.gov](mailto:aturner@sandiego.gov)**