



# International Affairs Board

## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, June 9, 2021  
TIME: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM  
LOCATION: Virtual Zoom Webinar

### I. Call to Order | Welcome

- **Roll Call:**

#### Board

Mr. Bruce Abrams, Board Chair	–	Absent
Ms. Mary Abad, Board Member	–	Present
Ms. Valerie Attisha, Board Member	–	Absent
Ms. Leslie Bassett, Board Member	–	Present
Mr. Kevin Cruz, Board Member	–	Absent
Ms. Melissa Floca, Board Member	–	Present
Mr. Andre Kwan, Board Member	–	Present
Mr. Mark Leo, Board Member	–	Present
Mr. Jordan Marks, Board Member	–	Absent
Ms. Chandler Martin, Board Member	–	Present
Mr. Bob Morris, Board Member	–	Absent
Ms. Hilda Mwangi, Board Member	–	Present
Ms. Fabienne Perlov, Board Member	–	Absent
Mr. Daniel Suh, Board Member	–	Absent
Mr. Oscar Urteaga, Board Member	–	Absent
Ms. Caroleen Williams, Board Member	–	Present
Ms. Kenia Zamarripa, Board Member	–	Present

#### City Staff

Rita Fernandez, Executive Director	–	Present
Sarah Moga-Aleman, Binational Affairs	–	Present

#### Speakers

Melissa Floca, Cross-Border Initiatives	–	Present
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### II. Pro-temp Chair Vote

- Chair, Fabienne Perlov was unable to attend.
- A vote to have Kenia Zamarripa preside as pro-temp chair was held.
- Kenia Zamarripa was voted in as pro-tem Chair.

### **III. Non-Agenda Public Comment**

- There was no public comment

### **IV. Approval of May 12, 2021 Minutes**

- Mary Abad abstained, all others in attendance as of 5:39 approved.
- Minutes approved.

### **V. Updates from the Mayor's Office**

#### **a. Rita Fernandez, Director of Global Affairs**

- Introduced Sarah Moga-Aleman, the newest member of the global affairs team.
- Appointments and reappointments for the IAB have been finalized.
  - Awaiting confirmation by the city council, to be voted on next Tuesday.
  - One vacancy is currently remaining.
  - Names of new appointees: Victoria Phillips, Biran D'Amico, William Geibel, Nathan Williams, Dennis-Michael Broussard, Gustavo De La Fuente, Richard Bainter, and Karen Higareda

#### **b. Sarah Moga-Aleman, Binational Affairs Manager**

- Introduced the names of governor and mayor of Tijuana and Baja California.
  - Marina del Pilar Ávila Olmeda (Mayor of Baja California)
  - Montserrat Caballero (Mayor of Tijuana)
- Rita Fernandez and Sarah Moga-Aleman are working on letters to the new Mayor of Tijuana and Governor of Baja California inviting them to city hall.
- One major project is the long border wait times, which spiked to 7 hours during Memorial Day weekend. These times have normalized to 15 minutes.
- CBP expects most of the post border restriction traffic to be pedestrian.
- Friendship Park's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming up. The mayor will attend, and letters are being sent to California senators inviting them to attend.

### **VI. Presentation | Melissa Floca, Program Officer for Cross-Border Initiatives Kroc School's Institute for Peace and Justice**

- Border Fellows Program
  - Non-residential program for individuals working in southern California or Baja California
  - \$850/month stipend and \$5k grant to support work in academia, the public sector, or civil society to create a more peaceful and inclusive border region
  - Last week was the start of the program for their first portfolio of fellows.
  - Each fellow will work on a project they proposed.
- Commissioning Thought Pieces: These are formatted as a 3000-word curated discussion between local and global leaders from both sides of the border. After these are completed, responses from binational leaders will be sought.

### **VII. Chair's Report**

- Baja California has opened vaccination signups for 18- to 39-year-olds.
- All IAB members will be receiving a survey to determine the best date for their upcoming retreat.

## **VIII. Amendment to Bylaws**

- Motion to open discussion of Amendment to Bylaws.
  - The board will eventually need to make broader amendments to the bylaws, as currently they do not align with what is in the municipal code.
  - Approved
- The change voted on today to the first sentence of Section 8 which says “The officers of the International Affairs Board shall consist of a Chair, appointed by the Mayor of the City of San Diego, and a Vice-Chair and a Secretary Treasurer selected by the Chair.”
- The proposed change is to replace this with: “The officers of the International Affairs Board shall consist of a Chair and a Vice-Chair pursuant to the San Diego Municipal Code section §26.22(c), and Secretary Treasurer selected by the Chair.”
- section 26.22 (c ) of the municipal code states: “During March of each year, the Mayor may designate one of the nine appointed members referenced in section (b) as Chair; however, in the absence of such designation, the Board shall, on or after April 15, select a Chair from among the nine appointed members referenced in section (b).”
  - Based on the questions by Leslie Bassett: The Municipal code refers to a 9-member panel from which nominees for the chair would be selected. Those nominees would be voted on by the full board in absence of an appointment by the mayor. Whether this is a subset of the board and how this subset would be selected is uncertain. Rita Fernandez will report back with clarification from the City Attorney’s Office.
- This change was approved with all members in attendance giving approval.

## **IX. Adjourn**

Next Meeting July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 5:30pm-6:40pm