

Minutes
Hermosa Beach Sister City Association
April 5, 2010

Attendance: George Barks, V.P., presiding; Cathy McCurdy, Treas.; Moira Nelson, Secy.; Mackenzie Austin, Nicole Burke, Jackie Flaherty, Mike Flaherty, Geoff Hirsch, Merna Marshall, Winston Marshall

Call to Order: George Barks, 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of 2/1/2010 meeting, Merna Marshall; 2nd, Mike Flaherty. All Ayes. So ordered.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer received \$725 in membership dues over the past month (that means about 60% of last year's members have renewed so far). Expenditures for the month included tickets for the student exchange trip, airfare for the paramedic trip coming up in May, and purchase of new checks.

Motion by Geoff Hirsch to approve the treasurer's report as amended to correct for paramedic expenditures; 2nd Jackie Flaherty. So ordered.

Report on Student Trip to Loreto:

George Barks reported a successful student exchange trip to Loreto, with enthusiastic participation by all who went, tears when it was time to go home, and assertions by some second-time participants that this year's visit was even better than the last. Mackenzie Austin, our student ambassador for the past 2 years, also reported on the trip, sharing her feeling that because this year's group of 18 was much larger than the group we sent last year, the students did not bond as a group quite as strongly as they have in the past. Her observations sparked a discussion that will be continued in the Student Exchange Subcommittee, concerning such issues as group size and composition, and balance of group activities (planned versus spontaneous) versus time spent with individual host families, all in light of the HBSCA goals and priorities for the student exchange.

At the February 1, 2010, meeting, the Board voted to require secondary approval by vote before the \$2500 airfare subsidy for the students visiting from Loreto could be spent. George has now spoken with Dr. Collins and Berta Romano of the Loreto Sister City Association and concluded that the subsidy is definitely needed. Merna Marshall made a **motion** to take the hold off the subsidy and allow it to be used to pay for airfare of student visitors from Loreto; 2nd Mike Flaherty. So ordered.

Also in connection with the student exchange, George reported that two of this year's enrolled participants canceled right before the trip. The association will return to them what they paid for tickets minus the cost of exchanging those tickets for use by the two students recruited as replacements. The two new participants were given grants that were not in the budget, toward the purchase of their tickets. Jackie Flaherty made a **motion** to approve this expenditure of \$400 in grants; 2nd Winston Marshall. Approved under protest.

Tri-Cities Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser Update:

The Cinco de Mayo fiesta is planned for Sunday, May 2, 2010, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Ortega 120 restaurant.

Merna brought and distributed tickets to be sold for the event itself (\$25 in advance; \$30 at the door) as well as tickets for the raffle only (\$10 each). The raffle prize is a Hitachi 42" LCD flat screen TV. Tickets can also be purchased at www.hb-sistercity.org.

All members are requested to provide an item for the silent auction. George will email a flyer and merchant donation letter that may be used in soliciting donations for the auction.

Announcements:

- Three Hermosa Beach paramedics are planning to fly to Loreto on May 25 to conduct the next training session.
- Come to the Cinco de Mayo fundraiser May 2 at Ortega 120! Support your sister city association and enjoy great prizes, great food, and a great time!
- HBSCA will provide volunteers to work in the Fiesta de las Artes beer garden over Labor Day weekend.

➤ Sister City biannual auction is scheduled for Sunday, October 3. Save the date!

Nonagenda Items:

Mike Flaherty reminded the Board of the importance, whenever possible, of getting approval for non-budgeted expenses before spending the money.

Adjournment/Adios: 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Moira Nelson
Secretary

Note: amended items in purple ink