

# House of Spain – Casa de España

## Final Minutes



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### Board of Directors Meeting (Monthly Meeting)

**Date:** January 11, 2026

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – noon

**Location:** 2168 Pan American Road East, San Diego, CA 92101

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## 1. Call to Order

President **Jesus Benayas** called the meeting to order at **9:32 a.m.**

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## 2. Roll Call & Quorum

### Officers Present:

- President: Jesus Benayas
- Vice President: Pedro Romon-Diaz
- Secretary: Madison Dearie

### Officers Absent:

- Treasurer: Maria Jose Marmanillo (proxy submitted)

**Board Members Present:**

- Maruja Williams
- Ignacio Vazquez Riesgo
- David Buenaventura
- Patricia Barry
- Ana Ocampo

**Sergeant at Arms (non-voting):**

- Henry Herms

A quorum was established.

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**3. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda as presented

- **Moved by:** Maruja Williams
  - **Seconded by:** David Buenaventura
  - **Vote:** Approved unanimously
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**4. Proxies**

Treasurer **Maria Jose Marmanillo** submitted her proxy to President **Jesus Benayas**. All other Board members were present.

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**5. Election of Sergeant at Arms**

**Motion:** To nominate **Henry Herms** as Sergeant at Arms

- **Moved by:** Ignacio Vazquez Riesgo
  - **Seconded by:** Pedro Romon-Diaz
  - **Vote:** Approved unanimously
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## 6. Election of New Board Members

**Motion:** To nominate **Patricia Barry** to the Board of Directors

- **Moved by:** Pedro Romon-Diaz
- **Seconded by:** Maruja Williams
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously

**Motion:** To nominate **Ana Ocampo** to the Board of Directors

- **Moved by:** Madison Dearie
- **Seconded by:** Pedro Romon-Diaz
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously

House of Spain member **Laura Rivas** was not present. Per Board requirements, her nomination was deferred pending physical attendance.

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## 7. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the December 14, 2025 Board meeting minutes

- **Moved by:** Pedro Romon-Diaz
  - **Seconded by:** Ignacio Vazquez Riesgo
  - **Vote:** Approved unanimously
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## 8. President's Report

President Benayas provided updates on the following:

- **Balboa Park Parking:**
  - Free parking available for three hours in the solar panel lot with license plate registration; \$5 for the remainder of the day
  - Federal lot: \$10 per day
  - Main park area: \$10 for first four hours, \$16 full day
  - San Diego residents may register in advance for discounted parking
  - HPR has provided **five parking passes**, stored at the casita; replacement cost is **\$170 per pass**; passes valid **only** in the federal lot
- **Strategic Priorities for 2026:**
  - Opening the casita to the public (needed to do so: funding and staffing)
  - Creating a gathering space for the Spanish community
  - Education on shared Spanish-American history, Spanish culture, and tradition
- **Operational Focus for 2026:**
  - Events will align with stated priorities
  - Individual Board members will serve as lead coordinators for specific events
  - Increased use of informal, off-site gatherings (e.g., potlucks) to build community, increase member engagement, and grow volunteer capacity

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## 9. Vice President's Report

No report.

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## 10. Secretary's Report

Board members were reminded to sign **P203 and P204** documents.

- All members present signed during the meeting
  - Documents will be scanned and stored digitally; originals will be kept at the casita
  - Blank forms will be sent to absent Treasurer **Maria Jose Marmanillo** for completion
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## 11. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by the President and included:

- **Financial Outlook:** Accounts show growth; 2026 is expected to be more volatile, requiring careful cost control
- **Budget:** 2026 budget was approved in December 2025
- **Bank Signatories:**
  - Removal of prior Secretary
  - Addition of Secretary **Madison Dearie**
  - President and Treasurer to remain primary signers
- **Debit Cards:** Issued to Jesus Benayas, Pedro Romon-Diaz, and Maruja Williams; no additional cards required at this time
- **Payment Processing:** Proposal to transition from Venmo to **Clover**

**Motion:** To move forward with Clover as the House of Spain payment system

- **Moved by:** Ignacio Vazquez Riesgo
- **Seconded by:** Pedro Romon-Diaz
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously

David Buenaventura will coordinate setup and training. All Board members are asked to attend training.

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## 12. HPR Report

- **HPR Presidents' Installation Dinner:**
    - Thursday, January 29, 2026, 5:00–9:00 p.m.
    - Cost: \$70 per person
    - Attendees: Jesus Benayas, Becky Benayas, Maruja Williams, Bob Williams, Ana Ocampo, and possibly the Queen and her mother
    - Final headcount due the following week
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## 13. Committee Reports

- **Día de Reyes:**
  - Future events will require payment in advance
  - No refunds for cancellations
  - Ticket purchases must follow established protocols (email confirmation of number of attendees and payment made must be shown at the door)
- **Feria de Abril:**
  - Lead: Ana Ocampo
  - Date: Saturday, April 11, 2026
- **BOSDB – Naval Base Point Loma:**
  - Proposed for March 2026; May as backup
  - Goal is to hold the event prior to command transition in June/July
- **Member Appreciation Event:**

- Low attendance in prior year
  - Board agreed to redirect the \$1,000 budget toward annual member gifts (e.g., House of Spain T-shirts)
  - David Buenaventura to develop design proposals
  - **Three Kings 2027:**
    - Request to reserve Hall of Nations for Saturday, January 2, 2027 (2:00–7:00 p.m.)
    - Backup: Sunday, January 3, 2027; same time
  - **Scholarship:**
    - Second scholarship check presented to Queen Kayla during Día de Reyes
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#### **14. Events Not Discussed**

- Latin Festival – September 19
  - Cabrillo Wreath Ceremony - date TBD
  - Lawn Program – October 10
  - December Nights – December 4–5
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#### **15. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at **11:55 a.m.**

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**Submitted by:**

**Madison Dearie**

Secretary, House of Spain

*Minutes were approved by the Board of Directors on February 8, 2026.*