

House of Spain – Casa de España

Approved minutes--August 9,2026



Board of Directors Meeting (Monthly Meeting)

Date: July 12, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m. – noon

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

1. Call to Order

President Jesus Benayas called the meeting to order at **9:45 a.m.**

2. Roll Call & Quorum

Officers Present:

- President: Jesus Benayas

Board Members Present:

- Maruja Williams
- David Buenaventura
- Laura Rivas

Board Members Absent:

- Madison Dearie
- Anna Ocampo (proxy submitted)
- Pedro Romon-Diaz (proxy submitted)
- Maria Jose Marmanillo (proxy submitted)
- Ignacio Vazquez Riesgo (proxy submitted)
- Patricia Barry(proxy submitted)

Sergeant at Arms (non-voting):

- Henry Herms – present

A quorum was established.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented

- Moved by: Maruja Williams
 - Seconded by: David Buenaventura
 - Vote: Approved unanimously
-

4. Proxies

All proxies submitted to Jesus Benayas.

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the June 7th, 2026 Board meeting minutes

- Moved by: Maruja Williams
 - Seconded by: David Buenaventura
 - Vote: Approved unanimously
-

6. President's Report

President Benayas provided updates on the following:

Board Meetings

- The next meeting will be August 9th.

Fragata Álvaro de Bazán Visit

- The Spanish Navy frigate Álvaro de Bazán everybody had a good time!

250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

- Hall of Nations on July 4–5 was very successful and SAR and the HoMexico liked the set up.
- Over 1200.00 people visited the HoNations and around 500 the HOS each day!!!
- Jesus Benayas, Laura Rivas and Henry Herms were present both days at the casita.

Staffing

- President Benayas worked with the accountant to added student assistant Tomas Rogers and Jacob Fee to the House of Spain payroll.

Insurance and Special Use Permit

- Our insurance agent recommends to wait until we get the SUP from the city, before we buy any other insurance.
- The Board is evaluating Commercial General Liability insurance options and obtaining additional quotes.
- Directors and Officers liability coverage remains in place.
- The Board will continue discussions with HPR and the City of San Diego regarding permit status and insurance requirements.

Website Updates

- Website improvements remain in progress.
- President Benayas thanked Henry Herms and David Buenaventura for their continued efforts.

Administrative Matters

- Routine shopping and mail matters addressed.
-

7. Vice President's Report

No updates were provided.

8. Secretary's Report

- Secretary Dearie could not attend.
 - Update will be given next meeting..
-

9. Treasurer's Report

Jesus presented the Treasurer's report from the accountant.

- The organization may need to transfer funds to cover upcoming operating expenses.
 - Approximately \$60,000 is currently held in cash reserves within the Fidelity account.
 - Approximately \$9,000 is maintained in the checking account.
 - Overall financial position remains stable.
-

10. HPR Report

Henry Herms provided updates regarding House of Pacific Relations matters.

- HPR continues discussions regarding operational requirements and information on the coming December Nights.
 - Update on HPR is that they may need to hire a lawyer to resolve some HPR issues. We do not know what the issues are at this time due to sensitive information.
-

11. Committee Reports

Upcoming Events

- **250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence (July 4–5)**
 - Lead: Jesus Benayas and Henry Herms will attend both days
- **Picnic at Liberty Station (June 28)**
 - No update since Ana is in Spain
- **December Nights Volunteer Appreciation Gift**
 - David Buenaventura presented concepts for volunteer appreciation merchandise.
 - The Board discussed providing volunteer T-shirts and hats in lieu of hosting a separate appreciation event.
 - Ignacio and Pedro submitted some new design ideas but since they were absent we will talk more about this at our next meeting.
- **Latin Festival (September 19)**
 - Tentative hours: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Cabrillo Wreath Ceremony (September 27)**
 - Coordinators: Jesus Benayas and Pedro Romon-Diaz
 - BOD approved money to pay for event insurance coverage for the event To approve the June 7th, 2026 Board meeting minutes
 - Motion made by: Maruja Williams●Seconded by: David Buenaventura●Vote: Approved unanimously
 - Other information will be discuss at our next meeting,
- **Lawn Program (October 10)**
- **December Nights (December 4–5)**

Calendar of Events

- Secretary Dearie to distribute the finalized calendar.

Scholarship

- No updates were provided

Queens & Kings Selection

- Potential candidates are currently being identified and evaluated.
-

12. Roll Call & Quorum New Business

No new business was introduced.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at **10:50 a.m.**

Submitted by:

Jesus Benayas and submitted to Madison Dearie
Secretary, House of Spain

Minutes approved by the Board of Directors at their August 9th, 2026 meeting.