

CITY OF PENSACOLA
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019
10 A.M.

Vince Whibbs, Sr. Conference Room
1st Floor, City Hall

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes—March 27, 2019
3. Sister City Updates
 - a) Gero, Japan
 - b) Macharaviaya and Borobia, Spain
 - c) Pensacola Sister Cities
4. Juan Sebastian de Elcano Visit
5. New Business
 - a) Galvez Day—May 8, 2019
6. Open Forum
7. Adjourn

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MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

March 27, 2019

10 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Trelfa, Chair, Beth Partington, Vice Chair, Nan Harper, Laverne Baker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jena Melancon

Others Present: None

Staff: Elaine Mager

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Trelfa. A quorum was established.
2. Approval of Minutes—February 27, 2019

Motion made by Member Baker, seconded by Member Harper to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2019 meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. Sister City Updates

a) Gero, Japan

The student delegation from Gero will arrive in Pensacola this evening and will be met at the airport by their host families. The schedule of their activities was attached to the agenda. They will meet with the Mayor at 11 a.m. on Monday, April 1, in the Council Chamber. Member Baker encouraged Board members to attend if possible.

b) Macharaviaya and Borobia, Spain

Member Harper reported that a young author from Malaga, Paco Reyero, will be in Pensacola April 5 to attend a luncheon and present his book on the history of Galvez.

Also, a delegation from Pensacola will be going to Macharaviaya in July.

Still waiting to hear if the Mayor of Borobia and two other individuals will be coming to Pensacola for the celebration of the Fiesta of Five Flags.

c) Pensacola Sister Cities

Member Partington and Ms. Diane Peterson have been approached to serve on the Pensacola Sister Cities Board to help promote and expand interest in Pensacola's sister cities. Also, Member Harper indicated that she was going to reach out to Tom Pace at

MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

March 27, 2019

Page 2

the Pensacola Yacht Club to serve on the committee to promote the Isla Mujeres, Mexico Sister City relationship.

4. Juan Sebastian de Elcano Visit

Member Harper updated the Board on the change in location for the Elcano. The Elcano will now be berthed at NAS Pensacola instead of downtown at the Port. This will create some scheduling conflicts for the school students visits, the on board reception and tours with security measures at the base. The ship will be available all day on Sunday, and in the afternoons only on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. It will leave on April 5. The Navy League is hosting a reception on April 2 at Seville Quarter so that some festivities could be held downtown. Reservations should be made with either the Fiesta office or with the Pensacola Navy League.

5. New Business: There was none.

6. Open Forum: There were no speakers.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.



**“JUAN SEBASTIÁN DE ELCANO” - CO
XCI CRUCERO DE INSTRUCCIÓN
V CENTURY OF THE FIRST CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE GLOBE**

*Juan Sebastian de Elcano
the legendary sailor and the epic feat he attempted with
the first circumnavigation of the globe*

If I tell you that at the beginning of the XVI century, Magellan was tasked by the Spanish king Charles the First to find an alternative sea route to Indies or to find a westbound sea route to Indies. Magellan eventually succeed but later was killed. Subsequently, Elcano carried on the expedition, in command of only one ship, “Victoria”, and so completed the first navigation around the world. If I tell you so, I am not lying to you, but it is so summarized that the History and its main protagonists are put in danger.

From my point of view it is mandatory to review the historical context before explaining any historical event. So lets do it with this universal and epic feat.

Historic context.

This episode began on March 1518, when the Spanish King Charles the First signed the “*Capitulaciones de Valladolid*” (a sort of contract of the time) with the Portuguese explorer Fernando de Magallanes (Magellan from now on). By this document, the Spanish king provided Magellan with a fleet of five ships to find an alternative maritime route to the Indies (now known as the Philippines), sailing westbound instead of eastbound, like the Portuguese were doing at that time.

Magellan convinced the King to support such an ambitious expedition, based on two key arguments:

1. *The Spices Islands* (Molucas Islands) were in the Spanish side in regard to the *Treaty of Tordesillas* (1494), agreement by which the Pope divided the world in two sides: one for the Portuguese Empire of the time and the other for the Spanish one. Therefore, the monopoly over the spices from the Indies, which were very valuable in the XVI Century, should have been held by the Spanish and not by the Portuguese.
2. In the line of Christopher Columbus' ideas, Magellan was convinced that the Earth was rounded and insisted of looking for a passage to the Indies and Spices Islands through the American continent, seeking for a passage that would link the Atlantic Ocean with the ‘South Sea’.

The South Sea, as you know, had been recently discovered by Vasco Núñez de Balboa (another Spanish explorer) during an expedition through Central America, in 1513.

As a result of the "*Capitulaciones de Valladolid*", Magellan was appointed Captain of the Fleet, governor and *adelantado* (the representative of the King in the territories to discover).

The Magellan and Elcano Expedition started on August 1519.

There is no doubt about neither the vision of Magellan nor his leadership as head of the expedition, as well as of his abilities as a great explorer. In few words: he was ahead of his time.

The Enterprise.

Taking a look at the Fleet that departed, it consisted of five ships (four carracks and one caravel): the "Trinidad", which was the flagship, the "Concepción", the "Santiago", the "San Antonio" and the "Victoria" ("Victoria" that means *Victory*, which was going to play a crucial role in the expedition).

The dimensions and features of the vessels give the impression that they were really vulnerable. Also it is important to know that they embarked provisions for at least 2 years.

There were a total of 239 men, two thirds of them were Spanish (160 or so) and the rest belonged to 9 different countries: of those about 25 were Portuguese, Magellan included.

In September 1519 they headed out to the west, in the same direction Cristopher Columbus had set out years earlier.

Where was appointed Elcano in that Spanish fleet? He was the "*maestre*" of the "Concepcion". At that time, the "*maestre*" was the men best qualified on seamanship onboard. In present time, it could resemble the Executive Officer, or the second in command.

Magellan accomplished his mission.

The expedition left Seville on August 1519. On December they anchored in Guanabara Bay, near Rio de Janeiro, and continued sailing southwards until they reached Saint Julian Bay at the end of March 1520. In that area they stayed and suffered a very hard winter. Also there, some officers considered that Magellan was not a good commander and organized a riot. The rebellion was successfully crushed and its leaders executed.

After that, the expedition carried on sailing southwards looking for a passage to the Pacific Ocean.

On May, the "Santiago" sank off the southern coast of Patagonia, but all its crew managed to survive. Later, on October, a channel named 'Strait of All Saints' was discovered and finally on November, it was successfully crossed, arriving at the South Sea on November 1520. Subsequently, the strait was named the 'Strait of Magellan' and the South Sea became the Pacific Ocean.

At that point, the fleet had lost two ships, the "Santiago" that sank and the "San Antonio", which deserted, returning to Spain on her own.

The three remainder ships reached Asia on March 1521 as they arrived to the Mariana Islands. Then, Magellan baptized those islands as the «*Saint Lazarus*» Islands. Later, on April, Magellan was killed in a riot with natives in the Philippine island of Mactan. Therefore, Magellan died without reaching the so much coveted Molucas Islands but very close to them.

Days later, the "Concepción" was burnt by Spanish sailors as there were not enough crew members to manage the ship. By then, only two seaworthy vessels remained, the "Trinidad" and the "Victoria".

Finally the "Trinidad" and the "Victoria", this one commanded by Juan Sebastián de Elcano since August 1521, arrived at the Molucas Islands on November of that year. There they loaded the ships with the much desired spices they looked for (clove among them).

Elcano made a crucial decision.

With the two ships full of goods, "Trinidad" tried to come back following the same route as they sailed initially. However, the ship and its crew suffered many incidents and accidents, among them a heavy storm which broke the masts. To make things even worse, the ship was captured by the Portuguese and some of the sailors were made prisoners.

Elcano, as captain of the "Victoria", with 60 men on board, made the decision to carry on sailing westwards. The "Victoria" set sail on December 21st and continued sailing alone trying to avoid the African coast because ports and sea routes were exclusively controlled and managed by the Portuguese Crown.

Elcano crossed the Indian Ocean, turned the "Good Hope" Cape (it took them 3 months to pass through this very dangerous Cape) and sailed northwards thru the Atlantic Ocean. They sailed without making a single stop until they reached Cape Verde on July, just before the ship was about to be captured by the Portuguese.

After a tremendous effort, a legendary endeavor, the "Victoria" finally, and successfully, arrived to Sanlúcar de Barrameda (Cádiz) on September 1522 with just 18 people on board.

When the "Victoria" set sail from Cape Verde for the last stage of the voyage, there were only 22 ill and exhausted men on board. They sighted the Spanish coast on September 6th and two days later Juan Sebastian de Elcano, with 17 survivors, all together, arrived to Seville.

As a summary.

Of the five original ships, only one circumnavigated the globe, and out of the 239 men that left Spain, only 18 managed to return. They were the first men to circumnavigate the Earth, although this was not the original mission of the expedition.

Elcano was given a coat of arms by King Charles I with the motto: '*Primus circumdedisti me*' (You were the first to sail around me).

The harshness of this indisputable landmark is emphasized by the fact that a similar voyage did not take place again until 50 years later.

Elcano died on August 1526 at sea, while commanding a new naval expedition around the Pacific Ocean.

The Fifth Centennial.

As we are approaching the Fifth Centennial of this adventure, we have to commemorate the anniversary of such epic milestone and to be able of telling the story as it happened.

To resume:

- The expedition was exclusively and genuinely Spanish. It was a Spanish military and naval accomplishment.
- The expedition had two main phases:
 - (1) The Magellan phase in which a sea route westwards to the Indies was established and a passage between 2 great oceans was discovered
 - (2) The Elcano phase when the first circumnavigation of the globe was accomplished

And the first circumnavigation of the globe, the first circumnavigation in History, was as well the first globalization in History. At that time, it was known that the Earth was rounded, but it was not proven that it could be totally crossed only through the sea, sailing.