

International Relations Committee

Meeting held November 27, 2019

A meeting of the International Relations Committee is held this day commencing at 3:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 204, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Fred Francis, Chair
Councillor Fabio Costante
Councillor Gary Kaschak
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Daniel Ableser
Jerry Barycki
Maria Belenkova
Scott Despina
Ronnie Haidar (arrives at 3:32 p.m.)
Steven Spagnuolo
L.T. Zhao

Regrets received from:

William Ma

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:30 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Minutes

Moved by Councillor Costante, seconded by S. Despina,
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held June 20, 2019 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Presentation

Rakesh Naidu, President and CEO, Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce is present to provide information relating to a Twin City economic initiative. The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- The initiative began after speaking to Ambassadors of 3 countries – Argentina, Peru and Ecuador.
- The premise of this initiative is to support our companies as they go global and compete with foreign markets along with assistance from the Economic Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce
- There is currently an agreement with Argentina (Ecuador and Peru in the pipeline). We will offer them all of the services that any Chamber of Commerce receives at no cost which includes connecting them to businesses here, economic development, government programs and incubators to allow them to easily tap into the Canadian market.
- The proposal is to go to a selective few countries and ask them to sign a formal memorandum of understanding that will serve to extend a reciprocal relationship with the Chambers at no cost.

Moved by Councillor Costante, seconded by S. Despina,
That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to draft a letter to be sent to our Sister Cities for the purpose of introducing the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce along with their associated services in order to gauge interest in this initiative.
Carried.

5. Business Items

5.1 You + Me Sculpture – Jackson Park

The Chair reports the artist of the You + Me Sculpture is no longer involved in this project and he questions if the \$25,000 approved in principle by the IRC at its meeting held September 26, 2013 is still a viable option.

Discussion ensues regarding possibly inviting the current artist to attend a future meeting of the IRC or, to embark on an initiative that is of more interest to the Twin Cities. It is suggested to invite the Manager of Cultural Affairs to attend the next meeting to discuss future endeavours for the IRC.

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by Councillor Costante,

That the motion by the International Relations Committee passed in 2013 to approve in principle funding for The You + Me Sculpture to honour the current Sister City relationships with the City of Windsor **NO LONGER BE SUPPORTED** and further, that other options for a Sister City initiative be discussed at a future meeting.

Carried.

L. T. Zhao voting nay.

6. Communications

The Chair indicates that no delegation from the City of Windsor will be sent to the 10th Shonan Fujisawa Citizen Marathon 2020 to be held on January 26, 2020. He requests that administration forward the letter from the Mayor of Fujisawa to local running groups for their information.

Moved by L.T. Zhao, seconded by M. Belenkova,

That the following Communications **BE APPROVED**:

- 6.1 Photographic report on the 450th Anniversary of the Polish-Lithuanian Union signed in Lublin in 1569, including photos of the medal presentation to the City of Windsor.
- 6.2 Photographic report of the May 2019 Mission to Poland.
- 6.3 Letter to Mayor Dilkens from Tsuneo Suzuki, Mayor of Fujisawa inviting Mayor Dilkens and a delegation to attend the "10th Shonan Fujisawa Citizen Marathon 2020".
- 6.4 Invitation to the Honourable Krzysztof Zuk, President of the city of Lublin to visit the City of Windsor as Keynote Speaker for the 25th Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinner to be held on November 20, 2020.

Carried.

7. New Business

7.1 The Polish-Canadian Business & Professional Association of Windsor 24th Annual Polish Canadian Society Business Dinner

Moved by M. Belenkova, seconded by S. Despins,

That the update regarding the Annual Polish Canadian Society Business Dinner to be held on November 20, 2020 at the Caboto Hall **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

7.2 20th Anniversary Windsor-Lublin Twin Cities

The Chair states the Mayor's Office will most likely send a request to invite the Lublin delegation to visit the City of Windsor in 2020 as it will be the 20th Anniversary of the twinning.

The Chair adds 2020 will mark the 40 year Anniversary of twinning with the City of Mannheim, Germany and states a delegation may be invited in June 2020 to visit the City of Windsor to enjoy the fireworks and to showcase the city.

Moved by Councillor Kaschak, seconded by Councillor Costante,
That the update relating to the 20th Anniversary of twinning with the City of Windsor and Lublin, Poland **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:24 o'clock p.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

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