

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting held January 30, 2025

A hybrid meeting of the International Relations Committee is held this day commencing at 3:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 522a, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair
Councillor Renaldo Agostino
Councillor Fred Francis (via Zoom)
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Lubna Barakat (via Zoom)
Jerry Barycki (via Zoom)
Ronnie Haidar
L.T. Zhao (via Zoom)

Absent from the meeting:

Saiful Bhuiyan
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 3:33 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 Ed Sleiman, seconded by Jerry Barycki,
That the minutes of the meeting of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held December 11, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 Request from Changchun, China for a delegation to visit the City of Windsor in early March 2025

Sandra Gebauer reports that a request was received from Changchun for a delegation to come to the City of Windsor in early March 2025. She advises that the Changchun delegation is interested in meeting the Mayor, the members of the IRC and to explore potential cooperation in the fields of culture, tourism, automobiles, education, economy and trade as well as science and technology. She adds that they are keen in establishing a sister school relationship between Changchun and one of Windsor's high schools. In response to a question asked by Councillor Ed Sleiman regarding the last time a delegation visited the City of Windsor, Sandra Gebauer responds that a delegation came in 2017.

Moved by L.T. Zhao, seconded by Lubna Barakat,

That the Mayor **BE AUTHORIZED** to send a letter of invitation to the Mayor of Changchun; and,

That due to time restraints, that this request **CIRCUMVENT** the Development and Heritage Standing Committee and proceed directly to City Council for approval; and,

That an expenditure in the upset amount of \$10,000 **BE APPROVED** to host this delegation for three days in March 2025, and further,

That the visiting delegation from Changchun, China will include the following:

- Li Liquan, Deputy Director-general of Working Committee for Organizations Directly under the CPC Changchun Municipal Committee
- Li Jiwei, Level III Division Rank Official of the Foreign Affairs Office of Changchun Municipal People's Government
- Wang Zhongxue, Vice Principal of Changchun No. 11 High School

Carried.

4.2 Letter from Mayor Zuk, Lublin, Poland regarding a delegation to Lublin in June 2025 and a visit to Windsor in November 2025

Sandra Gebauer states that Mayor Zuk is requesting that the Mayor and two representatives from Windsor visit Lublin, Poland in June 2025. She adds that the IRC would be required to pay the cost for the flights and for a gift exchange.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by L.T. Zhao,

That the invitation from Mayor Zuk to Mayor Dilkens for a delegation to visit Lublin, Poland in June 2025 along with two (2) representatives from Windsor **BE ACCEPTED**; and

That due to time restraints, that this request **CIRCUMVENT** the Development and Heritage Standing Committee and proceed directly to City Council for approval; and

That an expenditure in the upset amount of \$10,000 to cover the flights, gift exchange and any other incidentals **BE APPROVED**.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,

That the Mayor **BE AUTHORIZED** to send a letter of invitation to the Mayor of Lublin, Poland for a delegation of two (2) to visit the City of Windsor in November 2025; and,

That this request **BE FORWARDED** to the Development and Heritage Standing Committee and City Council for approval; and further,

That an expenditure in the upset amount of \$10,000 to host the delegation for three days **BE APPROVED**.

Carried.

4.3 IRC Mandate and Terms of Reference

The Chair remarks that the current IRC Mandate and Terms of Reference outlines the purpose of the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,

That the current IRC Mandate and Terms of Reference dated May 2015 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

4.4. Twin City/Friendship Policy and Mandate

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,

That the Twin City/Friendship Policy and Mandate **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

5. Communications

5.1 Information on Glowing Bike Path in Poland

Jerry Barycki states that the glowing bike path in Poland is unique and innovative. It is noted that the use of LED lamps, solar panels and “light-accumulating paint” does not require any alternative power sources.

The Chair suggests that when the delegation from Windsor visits Poland, that additional information regarding products used and the cost of the glowing bike path can be researched and brought back.

Moved by L.T. Zhao, seconded by Councillor Fred Francis,
That the information provided on the glowing bath path in Poland **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

5.2 Twin Cities and Date of Twinning

Ronnie Haidar notes that in 2025, three of Windsor’s Sister Cities will be celebrating milestone anniversaries – Mannheim Germany, Lublin, Poland and Gunsan, South Korea. He asks if some type of event will be planned. Sandra Gebauer responds that there was discussion previously regarding a celebration relating to the opening of the Gordie Howe Bridge in September 2025.

In response to a question asked by the Chair regarding if there a protocol where a gift or letter to commemorate this significant milestone is provided, Sandra Gebauer that the Mayor’s Office can send a letter acknowledging the milestone.

Jerry Barycki suggests inviting a delegation from Gunsan, South Korea and Mannheim, Germany to the City of Windsor. Councillor Fred Francis concurs and proposes that communication be sent to Mannheim, Germany via the Mayor’s Office inviting a delegation to come to Windsor in the summer 2025 to commemorate the milestone Twinning anniversary. He adds that the opening of the Gordie Howe Bridge is not a municipal event and may not allow for participation.

Councillor Fred Francis advises that the delegation in Lublin, Poland could also visit Mannheim, Germany during this trip to commemorate the anniversary with Mannheim.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Jerry Barycki,

That the Mayor’s Office **BE REQUESTED** to send letters inviting a delegation of two to four people from Mannheim, Germany and Gunsan, South Korea to the City of Windsor in the summer of 2025 to commemorate the anniversaries of our twinning; and

That a letter be sent to Mannheim, Germany asking for a delegation from Windsor led by Mayor Dilkens to visit Mannheim to commemorate the milestone anniversary and further, that this visit to Mannheim be scheduled in conjunction with the visit to Lublin, Poland in June 2025.

Carried.

6. Updates by Sandra Gebauer

6.1 Communication with the Windsor-Essex Chamber of Commerce regarding the City of Changchun's request.

As requested by the Committee members at the December 11, 2024 meeting, Sandra Gebauer reports that she contacted Tony Haddad, Interim CEO of the Windsor-Essex Chamber of Commerce regarding the 2022 initiative with Windsor's Twin Cities as well as Changchun's request for collaboration. Mr. Haddad confirmed that they are open to collaborating with Changchun. The introduction will be made online by Sandra Gebauer, however, as it relates to collaboration with all of Windsor's Twin Cities, he suggested the decision be left to the incoming President and CEO Ryan Donally.

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Councillor Fred Francis,
That the update by Sandra Gebauer regarding the City of Changchun's request to collaborate with the Windsor-Essex Chamber of Commerce **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

6.2 2025 Children's Art Exhibition

Sandra Gebauer states that she has tentatively reached out to Devonshire Mall to determine the availability for 2025 and asks if the IRC is interested in participating in the 2025 Children's Art Exhibition.

Lubna Barakat asks if it would be feasible to have a virtual presentation, i.e. slide show of the children's artwork at the entrance to the Art Gallery of Windsor. Sandra Gebauer responds that she will reach out to the Art Gallery to determine if this is feasible and suggests displaying the physical boards with the art for a week. Ronnie Haidar offers the University of Windsor as another venue to display the children's art.

Moved by Ronnie Haidar, seconded by Lubna Barakat,

That the 2025 Children's Art Exhibition **BE HELD** at Devonshire Mall as in past years; and
That Administration determine if the Windsor Art Gallery is interested in hosting the Children's Art Exhibition for 2025, and further to coordinate with the University of Windsor through Committee member Ronnie Haidar to host the 2025 Children's Art.

Carried.

Jerry Barycki refers to Polish Heritage Month and requests a flag raising be held to commemorate this event. Sandra Gebauer responds that the City has currently discontinued flag raisings.

7. New Business

None

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in May 2025.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:29 o'clock p.m.