

## **International Relations Committee**

Meeting held May 8, 2024

A meeting of the International Relations Committee is held this day commencing at 2:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 522b, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair  
Councillor Renaldo Agostino  
Councillor Fred Francis  
Councillor Ed Sleiman  
Saiful Bhuiyan  
Ronnie Haidar

### ***Regrets received from:***

Lubna Barakat  
Jerry Barycki  
L.T. Zhao

### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 2:37 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. Adoption of the Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,  
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held January 17, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

#### 4. Business Items

##### 4.1 Arlington, Texas – Sister City/Friendship City Discussion

Sandra Gebauer advises a conversation was held with Sheri Capehart, Program Director for Arlington, Texas Sister Cities who asked for the status of their draft Memorandum. Sandra Gebauer explained that they were waiting for the Revised Twin City/Friendship City Policy to be approved by Council (which was approved). Sheri Capehart expressed that Arlington, Texas is requesting a formal Sister City agreement and not a Friendship City agreement. Sandra Gebauer explained there is little difference between the two agreements, except for the five year commitment with the Friendship City which means every five years it would be reviewed. She highlighted that the draft Memorandum of Understanding sent by Arlington, Texas Memorandum, asks that a review be conducted every five years, which is similar to the City of Windsor's Friendship City model.

Councillor Fred Francis adds that currently there is no five year commitment with our Sister Cities, it is essentially a life-long commitment. He suggests moving forward with a Friendship City agreement with Arlington, Texas.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman

That the International Relations Committee RECOMMEND that the City of Windsor and the City of Arlington, Texas enter into a Friendship City Agreement; and,

That if approved by both parties, that the Mayor's Office BE REQUESTED to sign a Friendship City Memorandum of Understanding for Arlington, Texas consistent with the process outlined in the Twin City/Friendship City Policy.  
Carried.

##### 4.2 Invitation for the City of Windsor to send a delegation to attend the 2024 China International Friendship Cities Conference to be held in Kunming City, China from November 17 -20, 2024

Sandra Gebauer advises that the information provided by the organizers of the Friendship Cities Conference is from an event held in Wuhan China in 2018. Councillor Fred Francis requests that a list of delegates/delegations be provided.

Saiful Bhuiyan suggests that members of the IRC be given the opportunity to attend the Friendship Cities Conference and pay at their own expense if there is a limit to the number of delegations.

Councillor Francis asks if this invitation should be vetted through Foreign Affairs. Sandra Gebauer adds that there is a visa requirement to enter China.

Moved by Councilor Fred Francis, seconded by Ronnie Haidar,

That Sandra Gebauer **BE REQUESTED** to provide further information relating to the number of delegates being invited to attend the 2024 China International Friendship Cities Conference to be held in Kunming City, China from November 17 -20, 2024 and to report back at the next meeting of the International Relations Committee.

Carried.

#### **4.3 Request for a Sister City Agreement with the City of Kamianets-Podilskyi, Ukraine**

Councillor Fred Frances suggests sending a copy of the City of Windsor Twin City/Friendship City Policy to the Mayor of Kamianets-Podilskyi for information purposes.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman

That Sandra Gebauer **BE REQUESTED** to send the City of Windsor Twin City/Friendship City Policy to the Mayor of Kamianets-Podilskyi, Ukraine.

Carried.

#### **4.4 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of twinning with Lublin, Poland in 2025 – Delegation to go to Lublin, Poland to celebrate this event**

Sandra Gebauer remarks that as there was no exchange in 2020 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our twinning with Lublin due to COVID, Jerry Barycki who is in Lublin presently, proposed celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Jerry Barycki will speak to this at the next meeting of the IRC.

This matter is deferred to the next meeting.

#### **4.5 Fujisawa Misono High School Girls**

Sandra Gebauer reports that she was contacted by the organizer and the students of Fujisawa's Misono Jogakuin High School will visit City Hall on Friday, July 26, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$200. for the purchase of cake and refreshments for the Fujisawa Misono Jogakuin High School student's reception to be held on Friday, July 26, 2024 at 1:00 o'clock p.m. in the Windsor City Council Chambers, City Hall.

Carried.

#### 4.6 2024 Children’s Art Exhibition – Verbal Update

Sandra Gebauer advises that she had a conversation with Michelle Staaedegaard, Manager Culture and Events, with regards to partnering with Culture in purchasing some displays to be used for the children’s art exhibition. Michelle has agreed to look into this and report back with some prices.

Sandra Gebauer indicates that she contacted Devonshire Mall and tentatively booked a space in the Mall from October 7 – 13, 2024 to host the 2024 Children’s Art Exhibition.

Moved by Ronnie Haidar, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,  
That the 2024 Children’s Art Exhibition **BE HELD** at Devonshire Mall from October 7 – 13, 2024 and further, that Sandra Gebauer **BE REQUESTED** to reach out to the Twin Cities regarding the date of the event.

Carried.

The Chair proposes developing a theme for the Children’s Art Exhibition, for example *“What I love about my city”*.

#### 4.7 Use of Concrete portals with a Video Screen which connections people in different cities in real time

Councillor Renaldo Agostino states that the concrete portals with a video screen costs approximately \$100,000.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,  
That the update relating to the concrete portals with a video screen which connects people in different cities in real time **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

### 5 Communications

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,  
That the following Communications **BE RECEIVED**:

- 5.1 Motion M-75 debated in the House of Commons regarding Polish Heritage Month
- 5.2 Article summarizing the Anniversary Jubilee (550) of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus

- 5.3 Congratulatory letter from Mayor Drew Dilkens to Tsuneo Suzuki, Mayor of the City of Fujisawa, Japan on his recent re-election.
- 5.4 Congratulatory letter from Mayor Drew Dilkens to Mr. Krzystof Zuk, Mayor of Lublin, Poland on his recent re-election.
- 5.5 Save the Date – 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinner, November 15, 2024.
- 5.6 Municipality Twinning Programs – E-mail and letter from Omer Korkmaz wishing to build a relationship with the City of Windsor and other countries for business purposes.
- 5.7 Twin Cities with the Corporation of the City of Windsor Carried.

**6. New Business**

In response to a question asked by Ronnie Haidar regarding an update of the Twin Cities Sign Post, Sandra Gebauer responds that she will contact James Chacko, Executive Director Parks and Facilities for the status.

The Chair proposes the creation of an international brand/destination with the City of Detroit. Councillor Francis replies that this is a mayor to mayor request as it cannot be accomplished through City Council, Tourism Windsor Essex and Pelee Island (TWEPI) or through IRC.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino remarks that the City of Detroit approached the City of Windsor years ago asking if we would support them with a letter for the NFL Draft. Councillor Fred Francis indicates that many events were supported by the City of Detroit, including the International Children’s Games and FINA, and indicates that similar to what Detroit did, Windsor asked for Detroit’s support to host these events.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be at the call of the Chair

**8 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 3:20 o’clock p.m.