

## **International Relations Committee**

Meeting held July 31, 2023

A 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  
Councillor Ed Sleiman  
Lubna Barakat  
Ronnie Haidar  
William Ma

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

Jerry Barycki  
L.T. Zhao

### ***Also present are the following resource personnel:***

James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks and Facilities  
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. 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 May 10, 2023 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

## 4. Business Items

### 4.1 City Post

James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks and Facilities appears before the Committee and provides the following update regarding the City Post:

- A rendering of the Sister Cities Post is provided and is **attached** as Appendix "A".
- The IRC has approved funding for a post; approved the specific layout of each individual sign; and approved the specific style of post.
- Bringing forward a change in location as previously, four different locations within City Hall Campus were discussed and the approved location was in front of the northwest corner near the main entrance to City Hall.
- The new location for the Sisters Cities Post is between the 350 City Hall Square West and 400 City Hall Square East buildings just off of City Hall Square south.
- Requesting approval to install the Sister Cities Post in this new location.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Ed Sleiman regarding if additional cities can be added to the Post, James Chacko responds that the pole is twenty-five feet; the bottom sign will be fifteen feet off the ground which will allow for adequate space for additional Sister Cities while still maintaining clearance to discourage the public from jumping up to touch the signs.

Ronnie Haidar asks if a plaque with a brief description to acknowledge the IRC can be installed near the Post. James Chacko responds that this location lends itself to this and an interpretive panel (2 feet by 3 feet) could be installed in the shrub bed directly north of the Post.

In response to a question asked by Lubna Barakat regarding if the concept presented is final, James Chacko remarks that the pole and signage as previously approved is final. He is present to request approval to the relocation of the Post.

The Chair asks if the signs on the Post point to the actual locations. James Chacko concurs and adds that each sign will be directed towards the Sister City.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,  
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to relocate the Sister Cities Post to a space between the 350 City Hall Square West and the 400 City Hall Square east buildings just off of City Hall Square south.

Carried.

Councillor Fred Francis suggests that Administration provide messaging and a concept for the interpretive panel for consideration by the IRC at the next meeting. The Chair proposes that a QR code be added to the signage.

#### **4.2 Request from the City of Gunsan, South Korea for a delegation of ten (10) including Mayor Kang to visit the City of Windsor from October 16-18, 2023**

Sandra Gebauer advises that a request was received from Mayor Kang's office for a delegation of ten including Mayor Kang to visit the City of Windsor. The delegation will be arriving on the evening of October 16, 2023 and leaving the morning of October 18, 2023. They are requesting assistance with the costs associated with transfers as well as accommodations for the ten delegations. Councillor Fred Francis suggests an upset limit of \$10,000.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,  
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$10,000 for a delegation of ten (10) to visit the City of Windsor for October 16, 2023 to October 18, 2023 and further that, the Mayor's Office of the City of Windsor **BE REQUESTED** to send a letter of invitation to Mayor Kang.

Carried.

#### **5. Confirm and Ratify E-mail Polls**

**5.1** That the following E-mail Poll sent on July 14, 2023 regarding a reception for the Misono Jogakuin students from Fujisawa, Japan **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,  
That approval be given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$100 for costs associated with a small reception to be held for the Misono Jogakuin School students from Fujisawa, Japan to be held on Friday, July 28, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers with light refreshments to follow in Room 204, 350 City Hall Square West.

Carried.

**5.2** That the following E-mail Poll sent on May 12, 2023 regarding a request from Gunsan, South Korea to invite local craft breweries to participate in the Gunsan Brews & Blues Festival 2023 **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,  
That the request from Gunsan, South Korea, inviting local craft breweries to participate in the Gunsan Brews and Blues Festival 2023 from June 16-18, 2023 be forwarded to local craft breweries and to Invest WindsorEssex and Tourism Windsor-Essex Pelee Island for consideration.

Carried.

#### **6. Communications**

### **6.1 Letter from the Mayor of the City of Khmelnytskyi (Ukraine) to establish a Sister City relationship with the City of Windsor**

Sandra Gebauer indicates that the letter from the Mayor of the City of Khmelnytskyi was forwarded to Council Services by the Mayor's Office. She remarks that the Twin Cities Policy was sent to the Mayor of Khmelnytskyi and advised that a discussion regarding a Sister City relationship would be discussed at the next meeting of the IRC.

Councillor Fred Francis inquires if Administration can bring back a draft policy on "Friendship Cities" as this type of relationship is less formal and allows for building upon this relationship over time.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to bring back a draft policy/framework for the establishment of a Friendship City Program.  
Carried.

### **6.2 Support for Ukraine's Energy Infrastructure**

The Chair advises that at Council's meeting held July 10, 2023, approval was given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$5,000 to assist Ukraine in purchasing electric generators (CR274/2023).

Moved by Ronnie Haidar, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman, That the update regarding support for Ukraine's energy infrastructure **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

### **6.3 Polish-Canadian Business Dinner – Save the Date**

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Ronnie Haidar, That information regarding the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinner to be held on Friday, November 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

### **6.4 Copernicus Display at Queen's Park and Windsor City Hall**

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Ronnie Haidar, That The Jubilee Exhibition held at Queen's Park and at the City of Windsor regarding the 550<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Nicolaus Copernicus **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

### **Additional Updates**

Sandra Gebauer advises that in speaking with Sheri Capehart, Program Director for Arlington, Texas Sister Cities she indicated that a Proposal for twinning with the City of Windsor will be provided in the fall 2023.

Sandra Gebauer states she has been in contact with the city's Recreation Department as well as a presentative from Devonshire Mall regarding the Children's Art Exhibition. She confirms that the Aquatic Centre and Devonshire Mall have agreed to host the Children's Art Exhibition at those locations. She proposes that the event be held in October 2023.

Councillor Fred Francis suggests holding the Children's Art Exhibition at the Aquatic Centre from Monday to a Thursday and at Devonshire Mall on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Moved by Ronnie Haidar, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,  
That the update regarding the Children's Art Exhibition to be held at the Windsor International Aquatic and Training Centre and at Devonshire Mall at the end of October 2023 **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

### **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:05 o'clock p.m.