

## **International Relations Committee**

Meeting held March 23, 2021

A meeting of the International Relations Committee is held this day commencing at 3:30 o'clock p.m., there being present the following members:

Councillor Fred Francis, Chair  
Councillor Fabio Costante  
Councillor Gary Kaschak  
Daniel Ableser  
Scott Despina  
Ronnie Haidar  
William Ma  
Steven Spagnuolo  
L.T. Zhao (arrives at 3:43 p.m.)

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

James Chacko, Senior Manager, Parks  
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 Kaschak, seconded by Councillor Costante,  
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held  
September 24, 2020 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

#### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

##### 4.1 Twin City Post

James Chacko, Senior Manager, Parks provides the following update relating to the Twin City Post:

- The Twin City Post will include the names of the Twin Cities, signage, a flag and a light on top of the post.
- The suggested location as a temporary location is along City Hall at the south end of the Councillors' parking lot.
- There is currently one old style globe light so we would replace that light with the new Twin City Post.
- This would be the temporary home for the Twin City Post until such time the full redevelopment is approved by Council and then at that point, the pole would be relocated to fit within the design of the New City Hall Civic Plaza.

D. Ableser asks if this type of feature belongs at the Civic Campus rather than at the riverfront.

The Chair responds that this is correct and the preference of City Administration.

Councillor Sleiman states there is no lighting currently at 350 City Hall. He asks if it would be better to wait and factor that into the lighting plan in the Civic Plaza or move forward temporarily and then move it again.

The Chair indicates he is not certain if the Committee wants to move to a temporary location and wait until a permanent location is determined and then provide funds that contribute to the larger Civic Plaza.

L. T. Zhao asks how long the Twin Post will remain in the temporary location.

J. Chacko responds that right now we are currently working with the Consultant phase of the New City Hall Civic Plaza Project. At some point, this will come to Council for their consideration and direction for the overall project. If we put this pole in at the temporary location, it may be there for two or three years or greater. Certainly, that same pole will be used as part of the redevelopment.

In response to a question asked by the Chair regarding the cost of the Twin City Post, J. Chacko responds it will be under the \$14,000 allotted budget.

S. Spagnuolo asks if the \$14,000 includes the cost of moving the Twin City Post to its permanent location?

The Chair states he assumes the cost is to implement the Twin City Post temporarily. J. Chacko concurs.

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by D. Ableser,  
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$14,000 from the International Relations Committee operating budget for the purchase, and installation of the Twin City Post to be temporarily placed in the New City Hall Civic Plaza.  
Carried.

## 5. Business Items

### 5.1 Invitation for the City of Windsor to enter into a Sister City Relationship with Antsirabe, Madagascar

The Chair indicates that this matter was sent to the Mayor's Office and was forwarded to the IRC to vet it. He adds that upon review of the Sister City Relationship and Policy, this is not how this is done. It is not city-to-city or government to government; it is generally people driven. He adds that he would be reluctant to establish a Sister City relationship that is not being brought to the IRC by our fellow citizens from Madagascar.

L.T. Zhao states that the City of Windsor does not appear to be aligned with Madagascar in terms of economic development.

S. Spagnuolo adds that he did not see similarities that would tie the two cities together, but he would like to see further information.

In response to a question regarding if there are any organizations in our community from Madagascar, the Chair responds he is not certain if there is a large Madagascan contingent in the City of Windsor. Obviously, there is a large African contingent in the City. We will have to look into this.

Councillor Kaschak suggests additional information regarding this matter be provided for the next meeting.

Moved by S. Spagnuolo, seconded by Councillor Kaschak,  
That the update regarding the invitation from Antsirabe, Madagascar to enter into a Sister City Relationship with the City of Windsor **BE RECEIVED**, that information provided by Antsirabe, Madagascar **BE SENT** to the appropriate community groups, and further, that Administration report back at the next meeting on this matter.  
Carried.

### 5.2 Children's Art Exhibition

S. Gebauer advises that the virtual art exhibition was released in September 2020, which was very well received. The City of Gunsan, South Korea released their virtual

exhibit in December 2020 and Fujisawa, Japan followed with their virtual exhibition in January 2021.

S. Gebauer reports that the City of Gunsan has indicated their interest in doing this again in 2021. She asks the Committee if they wish to hold a virtual exhibition for 2021 or to wait until the exhibition can be held at City Hall or at another location.

The Chair asks if the Committee wishes to provide a virtual Children's Art Exhibition in 2021 or not.

Moved by S. Spagnuolo, seconded by S. Despins,  
That a virtual Children's Art Exhibition to be held in 2021 to be coordinated by the International Relations Committee **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

## 6. Communications

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by Councillor Kaschak,  
That the following Communications **BE RECEIVED**:

- Cross-Border Cooperation Congress in Lublin, Poland 2020
- Windsor Star Article – Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Polish-Canadian Business & Professional Assn. of Windsor & the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Twinning of the City of Windsor with the City of Lublin, Poland.
- Invitation to the President of the City of Lublin along with a delegation to visit the City of Windsor at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinner to be held on November 19, 2021.
- The Union of Polish Metropolises – Role and importance of tolerance
- Letter from the Deputy Director, Lublin, Poland regarding the signing of a joint appeal recalling the role and importance of tolerance by evoking a fragment of the Declaration of Principles on tolerance.
- Mask Company in Gunsan, Korea

Carried.

## 7. New Business

None.

## 8. Date of Next Meeting

To be determined.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

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**CHAIR**

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**COMMITTEE COORDINATOR**