

International Relations Committee

Meeting held March 31, 2022

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

Councillor Fred Francis
Councillor Fabio Costante
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Daniel Ableser
Jerry Barycki
Maria Belenkova-Buford
Ronnie Haidar
William Ma
L.T. Zhao

Regrets received from:

Steven Spagnuolo

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 3:51 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 J. Barycki, seconded by L.T. Zhao,
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held February 2, 2022 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Communications

The Chair advises that the purpose of this meeting relates to discussions held with our Sister City in Lublin, Poland and the number of Ukrainian refugees that have crossed into Poland as a result of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. City Administration has gathered information for fundraising initiatives and have worked with other stakeholders to assist.

The Chair states that he worked with D. Ableser and Administration on a motion to be considered and supported. The proposed motion is read by D. Ableser.

Moved by D. Ableser, seconded by L.T. Zhao,

WHEREAS the City of Windsor, Ontario, Canada and the City of Lublin, Poland are twin cities and respect and honour our long standing relationship and friendship; and

WHEREAS the City of Lublin is approximately 100 kms from the border with Ukraine and, as the largest major city in Poland near the Ukraine border, has become the host community and point of first refuge for many refugees fleeing the ongoing war in Ukraine; and

WHEREAS the City of Windsor International Relations Committee wishes to support its twin city, the City of Lublin and relief agencies operating in Lublin, in their humanitarian efforts to support residents from Ukraine fleeing the war in Ukraine;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That the IRC contribute Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars from the International Relations Committee's 2022 operating budget towards a humanitarian organization operating in Lublin to support refugees in Lublin from Ukraine;
2. That the IRC's contribution be to the Stowarzyszenie Homo Faber (Homo Faber Association) unless Administration, in consultation with local Polish and/or Ukrainian community organizations or our municipal partners in Lublin, Poland identify an alternative humanitarian organization to best support support refugees in Lublin from Ukraine.

Carried.

D. Ableser remarks that two of the objectives of the IRC are to support the efforts of Mayor and Council in the enhancements of the City of Windsor's image and to promote and enhance our relationship with our Twin Cities. These objectives can be met by supporting Lublin, one of our Twin Cities. Due to COVID, there has not been much of an opportunity to promote our Twin Cities relationships and spend money as directed to us by Council. The letter from the Mayor of Lublin identifies three Non-Governmental

Organizations (NGO's). The motion was crafted to mention the first NGO listed as the target for the donation but attempted to leave it open in the event that a determination by administration indicates that there is a better target organization.

M. Belenkova-Buford asks what the identified organization does.

S. Gebauer responds that Director Stanowski advised in the Zoom meeting held March 10, 2022, that they had selected these three NGO's that are providing humanitarian aid – everything from financial support to helping refugees coming across the border to help integrate them into the community. The money being collected is also used to provide free public transit.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Sleiman regarding providing notice to Lublin relating to the donation from the IRC, the Chair responds that Administration will reach out to the contacts in Lublin and to the organization who will receive the donation.

Moved by Councillor Costante, seconded by Councillor Sleiman,
That the following communications **BE RECEIVED**:

- 4.1 Letter from Mayor Zuk, Lublin, Poland dated March 3, 2022 regarding the current refugee crisis resulting from the conflict in Ukraine.
- 4.2 E-mail from the Coventry Association for International Friendship (CAIF), Coventry, England dated March 1, 2022 providing CAIF's Statement on Ukraine.
- 4.3 E-mail from the Coventry Association for International Friendship (CAIF), Providing their Second Statement on Ukraine.
- 4.4 Notes from a Zoom meeting held March 10, 202 regarding the current situation in the City of Lublin.
- 4.5 Windsor Star Article – Ukrainians seek refuge in Windsor's sister city in Poland.
- 4.6 Windsor Star Article – Plea for help from our twin city in Poland.
- 4.7 Mannheim Study Tour to Windsor – April 4-2022 .
- 4.8 Fundraising event for the refugees coming to Windsor to be held on April 6, 2022.
- 4.9 Article from The Associated Press dated March 11, 2022 entitled "China locks down city of 9 million amid new spike in cases".

Carried.

The Chair refers to the Mannheim Study Tour coming to the City of Windsor from April 4-6, 2022 and asks if three members of the IRC are available to welcome the delegations.

S. Gebauer responds that due to the restrictions, it was requested that the IRC host a luncheon for a small group (for two of their sessions on April 4, 2022). The lunch will be a “box lunch” and a motion for an expenditure in the upset amount of \$250. is required. The Study Tour offered three spots for IRC members to attend the networking event to be held on April 5, 2022. W. Ma, L.T. Zhao and D. Ableser have agreed to attend.

Moved by M. Belenkova-Buford, seconded by W. Ma,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$250. to sponsor a luncheon for the delegation of the Mannheim Study Tour to be held on April 4, 2022.

Carried.

5. News Business

None.

6. Date of Next Meeting

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

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:04 o'clock p.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR