

International Relations Committee
Meeting held June 18, 2020 via Teleconference

A meeting of the International Relations Committee is held this day commencing at 11:00 o'clock a.m. via teleconference, there being present the following members:

Councillor Francis, Chair
Councillor Fabio Costante
Councillor Gary Kaschak
Councillor Ed Sleiman (arrives at 11:07 a.m.)
Daniel Ableser
Scott Despins
Jerry Barycki
Ronnie Haidar
William Ma
Steven Spagnuolo
L.T. Zhao

Regrets received from:

Maria Belenkova

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 11:01 o'clock a.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 Costante, seconded by R. Haidar,
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held February 28, 2020 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 Medical Supplies for Changchun, China

The Chair indicates although medical supplies were ordered to be sent to Changchun, China due to COVID-19, it was determined that the supplies would remain in the City of Windsor and be distributed to the city's frontline workers.

The City of Changchun contacted the City of Windsor in April 2020 with an offer to send 20,000 medical masks and to absorb the costs associated with the International shipping. A logistics company was contacted to determine if they could help facilitate the delivery of the masks however, the masks that they had available did not meet Canadian standards.

A similar situation arose with Guro, South Korea, (not one of our twin cities) who offered to send 10,000 non-surgical masks, which were not acceptable due to the types of masks available.

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by R. Haidar,

That the verbal update provided by the Chair regarding the purchase of medical supplies for Changchun, China due to COVID-19 and the decision to distribute the supplies to the City of Windsor frontline workers **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

4.2 2020 Children's Art Exchange

S. Gebauer states our contact in Gunsan, South Korea inquired about the 2020 Children's Art Exchange and asked that if the City of Windsor decided not to host the event this year, if we would consider sending children's artwork as they are planning to hold their exhibition at the end of this year.

S. Gebauer expresses concern that the children's art could be collected, however, due to COVID-19, and the fact that many of our City facilities are currently closed, finding a space to display the drawings would be a challenge and we would have to get creative.

R. Haidar suggests collecting children's art and placing it on a multimedia video to share with the community and with our twin cities, which would demonstrate the sister city relationships and that we're all in this together.

D. Ableser proposes the IRC work with Communications to undertake a 3D video. S. Gebauer to contact Communications and to report back to the IRC.

Moved by R. Haidar, seconded by D. Ableser,
That the 2020 Children's Art Exchange **MOVE FORWARD** and that Administration **BE REQUESTED** to report back on the feasibility of creating a Virtual Children's Art Exchange for 2020.
Carried.

4.3 Update regarding Possible Twin City Posts

S. Gebauer indicates at the February 26, 2020 meeting, the IRC was provided with photos of "Sister City Posts" located in Los Angeles and San Francisco. There was discussion on the possibility of erecting something similar on the City Hall Campus, which would display the names of our twin cities. The Parks and Traffic Departments were consulted on the potential of designing and creating the Twin City Post and an estimate of \$14,000 was quoted.

J. Barycki requests that a preliminary design of the Twin City post be provided.

Moved by J. Barycki, seconded by S. Spagnuolo,
That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to provide a rendering of the Twin City Post for consideration by the International Relations Committee.
Carried.

4.4 Twin Cities with the Corporation of the City of Windsor

Moved by Councillor Kaschak, seconded by Councillor Sleiman,
That the "Twin Cities with the Corporation of the City of Windsor" document **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

5. Communications

5.4 E-mails from Krzysztof Stanowski, Director International Centre & Daniel Gorbaczyk, Lublin, Poland regarding the LGBT+ Community

The Chair reports an e-mail from an individual in Toronto was received by the Mayor and City Council regarding discriminating policies in Lublin.

J. Barycki states the allegations are not true and he refers to the statement from Krzysztof Stanowski, Director International Centre.

In response to a question asked by D. Ableser regarding if a response was sent to the complainant, the Chair indicates he is not aware of a response being sent.

Councillor Sleiman states as a false accusation has been made, it would be appropriate to respond to the complainant.

Councillor Kaschak advises that as the complaint was initially sent to the Mayor's Office, it would be fitting to follow-up with the Mayor's Office. S. Gebauer to contact the Mayor's Office on this matter.

5.5 E-mail from Jerry Barycki regarding the 20th Anniversary of the Twinning Relationship between Lublin, Poland and the City of Windsor.

J. Barycki states June 26, 2020 will mark the 20th anniversary of the twinning relationship between Windsor and Lublin, Poland. The two decades of well-documented, active cooperation have been very productive. For the 20th Anniversary, they have prepared an exhibition, which will be in the form of an electronic document. S. Gebauer to work with Communications to ask if the electronic document can be displayed on the City of Windsor website and to assist with a display at City Hall at a later date.

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

- 5.1 Letter to Mayor Dilkens dated March 6, 2020 from the Mayor of Saltillo, Mexico extending an invitation for the Mayor and a delegation of three to visit Saltillo from July 18 to July 21, 2020.
- 5.2 Letter to Mayor Dilkens from the Mayor of Changchun, China dated March 31, 2020 regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5.3 E-mail from Trudy Baek, Manager of International Affairs, Gunsan, South Korea dated May 14, 2020 regarding the Children's Art Exhibit
- 5.4 E-mails from Krzysztof Stanowski, Director International Centre and Daniel Gorgaczuk, City of Lublin, Poland dated May 15, 2020 regarding the LGBT+ community – **attached.**
E-mail dated May 15, 2020 from the Chair, IRC to Members of Council regarding the LGBT+ community/
- 5.5 E-mail from Jerry Barycki regarding the 20th Anniversary of the Twinning relationship between Windsor and Lublin, Poland.

Carried.

6. New Business

In terms of a possible twinning with the United States, S. Gebauer reports we were asked in the past to gather some information from the City of Detroit regarding their policy

on twinning. It was determined that there is an organization called Sister Cities International, whose headquarters are located in Washington D.C. and that they are responsible for linking cities in the US with Cities worldwide based on culture, education, information and trade exchanges. The organization is membership based and as a member, they assist with the networking and support required to get to the sister city status. They also have other programs including high school homestay programs, annual conferences and so on.

It is generally agreed S. Gebauer will contact the City of Detroit International Relations Committee or similar committee regarding a potential collaboration with the City of Windsor's International Relations Committee.

7. Date of Next Meeting

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

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 11:57 o'clock a.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR