

## **International Relations Committee**

Meeting held June 23, 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, Chair  
Councillor Gary Kaschak  
Councillor Ed Sleiman  
Daniel Ableser  
Jerry Barycki  
Scott Despins  
William Ma

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

Councillor Fabio Costante  
L.T. Zhao

### ***Guests in attendance:***

Dr. Fazle Baki, Dr. Fouzia Baki, and Rabiul Biplob regarding *Item 4.0*

### ***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 3:30 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. Minutes

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by S. Despins,  
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held  
March 31, 2022 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

### 4. Presentation – Bangladesh-Canada Association Windsor-Essex – International Mother Language Plaza

Dr. Fazle Baki and Rabiul Biplob provide a Presentation entitled “International  
Mother Language Plaza (Martyr’s Monument)”, **attached** as Appendix A as follows:

- International Mother Language Day is a worldwide annual observance held on February 21 of each year to promote an awareness of linguistic, cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- On this day, millions of people pay homage to the language martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the fight to retain their mother language.
- UNESCO honoured this date to acknowledge to the world that we will never forget this date to acknowledge to the world that we will never forget the sacrifices made for language rights.
- The Bangladesh-Canada Association Windsor-Essex’s vision was to have the martyrs’ monument standing in the heart of the Windsor city to show solidarity and compassion towards Windsorites.
- City Council at its meeting held May 4, 2020 approved the “Martyrs’ Monument” subject to the acquisition of full funding for the monument.
- An estimate from an engineer quoted approximately \$100,000 and recently a quote was received from a builder in the amount of \$98,300 plus HST.
- If they are able to raise these funds, they are targeting 2023 for the construction.
- At this time, they have raised \$30,000 in cash donations and \$48,000 in pledges.
- The total budget required for the project is \$130,000.
- Advises that the International Mother Language Project will be erected in Jackson Park.

In response to a question asked by J. Barycki regarding the number of Bangladesh people who reside in the city, Dr. Baki responds there are between one thousand and two thousand residents living in Windsor and Essex County.

The Chair thanks Dr. Baki and Rabiul Biplob for their presentation.

Councillor Kaschak asks Administration to provide information relating to the City’s contribution for the Bangladesh Peace Clock at Ouellette and Wyandotte.

The Chair asks regarding the Peace Clock, if the city provided donations, matching funds or were there private donations from their community

D. Ablesser asks if there is any history of the International Relations Committee providing grants for community based projects.

J. Barycki responds that he does not recall that grants for community based projects were provided in the past. He asks what is the policy going forward for community requests.

S. Gebauer responds that in speaking with James Chacko, Executive Director Parks and Facilities that the city did not contribute any funds towards the Bangladesh Peace Clock. The City did provide repairs to the boulevard where the clock is located currently and approximately four years ago, did contribute funds to add language on the north facing side of the clock.

In response to a question asked by the Chair regarding if this matter is outside the mandate of the Committee, S. Gebauer responds that Bangladesh is not a twin city, but is an international country.

Moved by Councillor Kaschak, seconded by Councillor Sleiman,  
That the request of the Bangladesh-Canada Windsor-Essex for funding for the International Mother Language Plaza (Martyr's Monument) **BE DEFERRED** to allow for Administration to provide best practices and additional information for the next meeting of the IRC.

Carried.

## **5.2 Invitation for a Delegation from the City of Windsor to visit Fujisawa, Japan – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Twin City**

The Chair states that there is a request for a delegation of five persons from Fujisawa, Japan to visit the City of Windsor from October 29, 2022 to November 2, 2022 for three nights.

Moved by J. Barycki, seconded by W. Ma,  
That the Mayor's Office **BE REQUESTED** to send a letter of invitation for five delegations from Fujisawa, Japan to visit the City of Windsor from October 29, 2022 to November 2, 2022 for three nights.

Carried.

The Chair advises that an invitation for a delegation to visit Fujisawa, Japan before February 2023 has been extended to the City of Windsor. He suggests that the newly appointed IRC Committee review this request.

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by Councillor Kaschak,  
That the invitation from Fujisawa, Japan for a delegation of five from the City of Windsor to visit Fujisawa by the end of February 2023 **BE DEFERRED** until after the Municipal Election.  
Carried.

### 5.3 Fujisawa Misono High School Girls Exchange Group

S. Gebauer states that the Misono High School girls will be visiting the City of Windsor for two weeks (from the end of July to August 2, 2022). She adds that the itinerary shows that they will visit Windsor City Hall on July 26, 2022 which will be confirmed by the local organizers. She notes that in the past, passes for Adventure Bay were provided to the students.

The Chair notes that once further information is received, an E-Mail Poll will be sent to the IRC members for approval of expenditures.

### 5.4 Children's Art Exhibition

S. Gebauer indicates that requests for the Children's Art Exhibition have been received from Gunsan, Korea, Changchun, China and Fujisawa, Japan and are asking if the exhibition will be held in 2022 (virtual or in-person).

The Chair suggests holding the Children's Art Exhibition in person, whereby the countries mail their art submissions to the City of Windsor for display.

Moved by D. Ableser, seconded by S. Despins,  
That the Children's Art Exhibition for 2022 **BE HELD** in person at Windsor City Hall, to coincide with the Fujisawa delegation visit in October 2022.  
Carried.

## 6. Communications

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by W. Ma,  
That the following communications **BE RECEIVED**:

- 6.1 Mannheim Summer Camp for young gardeners and other young people from our Twin Cities
- 6.2 International Work camp Mannheim Garden of Twin Cities
- 6.3 City of Mannheim invitation to participate in a twin city film project. Letter to Mayor Dilkens regarding the making of a short film in which the heads of our twin towns and Mayor Dr. Kurz have their say.
- 6.4 Polish Heritage Month – May 1, 2022 to May 28, 2022

- 6.5 International Relations Committee sending \$5K to Polish twin city- Windsor Star article.
- 6.6 Letter from the Tigray Community of Windsor and Essex County to the Mayor and Members of Council.

Carried.

**7. New Business**

None.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in September 2022.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:09 o'clock p.m.

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CHAIR

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COMMITTEE COORDINATOR