



# **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TASK FORCE**

**January 23, 2013, 2:30 pm**

**Committee Room #2**

**City Hall**

## **MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rick Page	-Director of Legislative Services
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	-Member of City Council
Councillor Lorrie Williams	-Member of City Council
Paul Daminato	-City Administrator
Councillor Betty McIntosh	-Member of City Council
Blair Fryer	-Manager of Communication and Economic Development

### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Mayor Wayne Wright	-Chair
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### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Bill Harper	-Councillor
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### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Jennifer Janzen	-Committee Secretary
Andrea Parkerson	-Economic Development Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 2:39pm.

## **1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

1.1 The following items were added to the agenda:

- Item #4.4 – “Report on the Lijiang Students”
- Item #4.5 – “Economic Development with Chinese Cities”
- Item #4.6 – “Sister City Relationship with Xinzhou, Shanxi Province”

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**2.1 Adoption of the Foreign Relations Task Force Minutes of August 30, 2012.**

### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the International Relations Task Force meeting held on August 30, 2012 be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of the Task Force present voted in favour of the motion

## **4.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Considerations for Public Report by Council re: Delegation to China 2012**

Mr. Rick Page informed the members of the Task Force that a public report would be written for presentation to Council. This would include a presentation and report, to be presented at the February 25, 2013, Regular Meeting of Council

Discussion ensued relative to the level of detail to be included in the public presentation. It was concluded that the business deliverables that were achieved should be highlighted.

The Task Force then discussed their goals for formal economic relationships with the cities they visited in China. It was stated that the City needs to formulate an International Economic Development plan, and could work with China on launching Intelligent City programs.

The Task Force discussed the decision to use a local supplier for stone products for the finishes of the Anvil Centre. Discussion ensued relative to the issues surrounding using an unfamiliar supplier for a project of such scope. The Task Force suggested that Yunfu could be contacted to create a feature/public art piece for the Anvil Centre lobby.

The Task Force directed staff to investigate if there are buyers in British Columbia who use Yunfu as their stone supplier, as this may help to assist in building contractors confidence in them. The same was said to apply to the stainless steel company.

### **4.2 Moriguchi 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—Sub-Committee**

Mr. Rick Page advised the Task Force that a forty-five person delegation would be visiting the City in May. An invitation was extended for them to arrive May 22, 2013 and depart May 26, 2013, which is Hyack Week. Officials in Moriguchi have expressed that there could be up to forty-five members of the delegation.

Mr. Page recommended that a sub-committee be created to handle the planning and organization of the delegation's visit. The Task Force agreed with this recommendation at the members of the sub-committee are:

- Councillor Bill Harper
- Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
- Councillor Betty McIntosh
- Councillor Lorrie Williams
- Rick Page
- Naseem Hassanali
- Jennifer Janzen
- Douglas Smith
- David MacGrotty

Mr. Page advised the Task Force that accommodation for the delegation has been reserved at the Met Hotel with additional rooms needed at the Inn at the Quay. Arrangements will be made.

Discussion ensued relative to the amount of funds that will be directed to this delegation. It was suggested that the City wants to provide the same level of hospitality that is afforded to New Westminster's delegations to Moriguchi.

#### **4.3 Sister City International**

Correspondence was received by Councillor Betty McIntosh and Rick Page regarding this organization that provides assistance to cities looking to establish Sister City relationships. They are seeking municipalities that are interested in a relationship with an American city, which New Westminster is not. However, Mr. Page has requested that the organization forward any relevant information regarding relationships with cities in China.

#### **4.4 Report on the Lijiang Students, Cllr. Williams**

Councillor Lorrie Williams advised the Task Force that the students chosen to receive the *Vasant Saklikar Memorial Scholarship* for 2013, and to come to Canada for two months, were selected while the delegation was in China. The students will be in New Westminster from September 1 to November 1, 2013.

Councillor Williams requested that an advertisement be placed in City Page requesting interested host families to contact her directly. Further, Councillor Williams has requested that each of the Councillors plan to spend at least one weekend day with the students while they are here.

Councillor Williams is still looking for additional methods of funding this experience for the students.

#### **4.5 Economic Development with Chinese Cities**

Councillor Bill Harper raised the issue of how the City sees the role of Economic Development in an international forum. The connection between International Relations and Economic Development is strong, and clarification is needed to know how the two will be integrated.

The concept of China House is strongly tied to economic development and will need assistance of other partners to ensure its success. It was stated that Douglas College is planning to build international student housing, and China House could be incorporated in to this plan.

#### **4.6 Sister City Relationship with Xinzhou, Shanxi Province**

Rick Page has received an informal request from the City of Xinzhou in Shanxi Province, China for a Sister City relationship. The Task Force asked for time to consider the request, and the following considerations:

- What are the City's goals in respect to Sister Cities?
- What economic development opportunities are within these relationships?
- How could the City work with other municipalities, organizations or levels of government to achieve international relations goals?

Procedural Note: Councillor Betty McIntosh left the meeting at 3:36pm.

#### **5.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

##### **5.1 Member reports, if any.**

There were no reports from members of the Task Force.

#### **6.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to be received by the Task Force.

#### **7.0 NEXT MEETING**

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

#### **8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was concluded at 3:47 pm.

Certified Correct,

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**Rick Page**  
Alternate Chair

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**Jennifer Janzen**  
Committee Clerk