

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TASK FORCE

**March 24, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.
Committee Room 2
City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Lorrie Williams	- Co-Chair
Lisa Spitale	- Chief Administrative Officer
Jan Gibson	- City Clerk
Blair Fryer	- Manager of Communications and Economic Development

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Co-Chair
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STAFF PRESENT:

Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Item 5.2 – Lijiang Students was added to the agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 25, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the International Relations Task Force meeting held on June 25, 2014 be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Lijiang Delegation

Councillor Lorrie Williams, Co-Chair, summarized the invitation letter to the Lijiang Committee dated March 16, 2015.

Lisa Spitale, CAO, advised that Michelle Dean, Special Events Coordinator, can provide assistance with the organization of the delegation.

5.2 Lijiang Students

Councillor Lorrie Williams, Co-Chair, spoke to the delegation of Lijiang students that will be coming to New Westminster. Councillor Williams expressed concerns regarding the proposed Lijiang teacher's exchange, suggesting that the teacher exchange should not occur at the same time as the student exchange.

Councillor Williams reported that she would be interviewing 12 students for the student exchange, and will identify four students to participate. Councillor Williams noted that families providing accommodations for the students would receive \$800 for housing two students for two months. Councillor Williams suggested that sending an individual who is involved with the exchange to conduct the interviews with the student is an important aspect of the exchange program.

Discussion ensued, and the Task Force suggested that criminal background checks be conducted for host families and that the school district be formally involved in the exchange program process.

The Task Force discussed the Task Force's structure and provided the following suggestions:

- That a budget and protocol be implemented for events such as the student exchange;
- That the Task Force should not engage in activities that do not meet the City's strategic initiatives;
- That the activities of the Task Force focus on additional relationships outside of China; and,
- That the Task Force explore relationships with alternative countries, such as India.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Email invitation from Lijiang Foreign Office

Councillor Lorrie Williams summarized the correspondence received from Lijiang Mayor Zhang Zejun dated March 3, 2015 regarding the 3rd China-South Asia Expo.

In response to concerns with respect to the lack of information outlined in the correspondence regarding the event, Councillor Williams advised that she would contact Lijiang staff for additional information.

Discussion ensued, and Task Force members advised that they would liaise with the local business community regarding interest in attending the expo.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is to be determined

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was concluded at 2:31 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Lorrie Williams
Co-Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk