



## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TASK FORCE**

**July 9, 2018, 11:00 a.m.**  
**City Clerk's Office, City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Jonathan Coté  
Councillor Lorrie Williams - Chair  
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr - Council Member Representative  
Jacque Killawee - City Clerk

#### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Blair Fryer - Manager of Communications and Economic Development  
Lisa Spitale - Chief Administrative Officer

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Heather Corbett - Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

### **1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the following item be added to the agenda:*

*4.1 Update on Tšilhqot'in First Nation; and,*

*THAT the July 9, 2018 agenda be adopted, as amended.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

#### **2.1 Minutes from June 11, 2018**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the June 11, 2018 International Relations Task Force minutes 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**

#### **4.1 Update on T̓silhqot'in First Nation**

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr updated the committee on the state of the potential Sister City relationship with the T̓silhqot'in First Nation, noting the following:

- Chief Alphonse remains positive about the potential Sister City relationship with the City, and hopes that it could be completed before the Municipal election; and,
- A joint meeting on the T̓silhqot'in First Nation is suggested with a minimum of three representatives from the City, ideally the Mayor, Councillor Puchmayr and City Clerk.

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*That the International Relations Task Force recommends Council support funding of members of Tl'etinqox Government to come to New Westminster, or City representatives travel to the Tl'etinqox reserve, to attend the signing of the sister city agreement.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **5.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

#### **5.1 Future of Lijiang, China Student Visit**

Councillor Williams discussed the Lijiang, China student program, noting the following:

- As the City has been running the program for 10 years, it would be encouraging for it to continue;
- A crucial link with the Canadian Consul in Guangzhou has recently been established; and,
- Organizational details, such as a checklist, have been written and would be kept in the Clerk's office going forward.

The Task Force members made the following comments:

- It has recently been increasingly difficult to find host families to accommodate the visiting students in the City;
- There may be sensitivity about the expenditure of City funds for Councillors' travel to Lijiang;

- The program has had positive impacts on the Lijiang students who have participated;
- It would be important for Council to engage in a broader discussion about this program, as well as the nature of the Sister City relationships; and,
- In terms of interaction with Lijiang, this program remains the only bond with the Sister City, and there may be a risk that the relationship could deteriorate if the student program does not continue.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the International Relations Committee submit three options to Council for consideration of the future of the Lijiang Student Program:*

1. *That the program be discontinued;*
2. *That another member of Council take on the responsibilities for the program in the event that Councillor Williams is unable to;*
3. *That another volunteer run the program with the cost of airfare to China covered.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

**6.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

**7.0 NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items.

**8.0 NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is to be determined.

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was concluded at 11:39 a.m.

Certified Correct,

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 ORIGINAL SIGNED  
**Councillor Lorrie Williams**  
 Chair

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 ORIGINAL SIGNED  
**Heather Corbett**  
 Committee Clerk