



MINUTES
CANADA 150
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS SUB-COMMITTEE
May 1, 2017, 3:30 p.m.
Canada Room

Committee Members

Regional Councillor Joe Li
Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong
Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Alex Chiu
Councillor Alan Ho
Councillor Karen Rea
Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Joe Lu, Community Member
Judi McIntyre, Community Member
Heinz Nitschke, Community Member
Carol Smith, Community Member
Lorne Smith, Community Member
John Webster, Community Member
Mary Webster, Community Member

Staff

Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire
Services
Sandra Tam, Senior Business Development Officer
Vanessa Rhodes, Acting Manager of Access & Privacy;
Committee Clerk

Regrets:

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Stephen Chait, Director of Culture &
Development

The Canada 150 International Partnerships Sub-committee convened at 3:37 PM with Regional Councillor Li as the Chair.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

That the minutes of the March 27, 2017 Canada 150 International Partnerships Sub-committee be adopted.

CARRIED.

2. Welcome & Introduction of International Partnership Sub-Committee Community Representatives

The Chair introduced the new community representatives to the Sub-committee, and provided an overview and the objectives of the Canada 150 International Partnerships Sub-committee.

3. Progress to Date

Sandra Tam provided the Sub-committee with an update on the work that has been done to date. It was noted that Canada 150 invitation letters to the Sister Cities have been sent by the Mayor's Office.

Sandra Tam confirmed that the Nordlingen delegation has confirmed their attendance. The delegation includes the Mayor and Councillor Puffer, who will arrive in Markham on September 6th – 11th.

4. Review of Proposed Programs for Visiting Delegations

a) Nordlingen

Sandra Tam advised the Sub-committee that the Nordlingen delegation will be arriving in Markham on different dates, therefore different programs have been arranged to accommodate the various arrival dates.

Heinz Nitschke advised the Sub-committee that the draft itinerary includes visiting Manitoulin Island, Tobermory Island, and Bruce Peninsula. This trip would take approximately three days, which will be confirmed once the Mayor of Nordlingen has confirmed his date of arrival. Heinz Nitschke will confirm the details after May 12th, and provide Sandra Tam the plans once confirmed.

Sandra Tam advised the Sub-committee that the City of Markham will host the delegation for two days, September 9th -11th. Tentatively, depending on the size of the delegation, the City of Markham will provide local transportation and most of the meals, however any additional days the delegation wishes to visit will not be funded. Heinz Nitschke requested for the City of Markham to fund a bus to accommodate the travel north of the city. Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community and Fire Services noted that once the number of delegations have been confirmed and more information is obtained, the budget can be discussed further.

The book launch for the "History of Markham" will be on September 9th, and the delegation will be here to celebrate.

Members noted that when they visited Nordlingen, the City of Nordlingen covered the cost for Markham's visit, and therefore this should be done in return for the visitors during the two day visit. Councillor Rea confirmed that Markham's costs for the visit were covered, and this should be discussed at Council so that it can be reciprocated for the Nordlingen delegation. Brenda Librecz advised that staff are working on providing lowered costs for the delegation, as was experienced in Nordlingen, however, the City of Markham should be consistent with covering costs for all visiting delegations, rather than having different policies for different cities. Regional Councillor Armstrong agreed that the City should be consistent in covering costs for each visiting delegation, however it was noted that trade missions and cultural trips should be handled differently. Therefore Regional Councillor Armstrong suggested that the City of Markham should be reciprocating what other cities do when they host the City of Markham.

Brenda Librecz advised that staff will report back on the policy for consistently applying cost covering for visiting delegations, and whether it can be applied differently for each visiting city.

It was suggested that staff assist with finding hotels at a reduced rate for the delegation. Staff advised that Stephen Chait is contacting the Hilton Suites to obtain room pricing for the delegations.

Lorne Smith advised the committee that Wallerstein Mayor Joseph Mayer should receive a formal invitation. Lorne will provide Sandra Tam with the contact information so that the invitation can be sent to him when approved by Mayor's Office

Lorne Smith noted that the Berczy Square official dedication will be held on September 9th. The City of Markham should extend formal invitations to the German Consulate and Ministers from the Federal and Provincial government. Lorne also requested that the Markham Museum be used on the Saturday evening to host the book launch. Sandra Tam will discuss venue options with Stephen and report back to the Sub-committee.

Councillor Burke asked if gifts will be distributed to the delegations, and if so, what gifts have been chosen. Brenda Librecz advised that staff are currently working on commemorative items, including commemorative coins, and obtaining pricing. Councillor Burke suggested donating a living tribute that would include dedicating a tree and providing the Councillors a certificate to take back to Nordlingham. Brenda Librecz will add a living tribute to the list of potential items to be provided as gifts to the delegations.

b) Cary

Sandra Tam sent a proposed itinerary to Cary. The Mayor of Cary is currently on holidays and therefore the arrival date and the number of people in attendance have not yet been confirmed. Sandra Tam will report back once the dates have been confirmed.

John Webster suggested that September would be a better time for this delegation to visit the City of Markham. The itinerary for this visit should include art and culture rather than focusing on business. It was noted that when the City of Markham visited Cary, the Markham band also visited, therefore there may be some bands from Cary in attendance during their visit to Markham.

Councillor Rea suggested that the City of Markham should have a policy regarding how Markham can cover the cost for hotel and accommodations for visiting delegations. Sandra Tam will report back to the sub-committee regarding the City's policy.

Further information regarding the itinerary and programming will be discussed once staff receive confirmation about the number of attendees and dates from Cary.

c) Wuhan

Sandra advised the Sub-committee that no decisions have been made regarding the programming and itinerary. Once staff receive confirmation, it will be reported back to the Sub-committee.

5. Next Steps

Sandra Tam will confirm the Wuhan delegation visit. Once the visit has been confirmed, staff will create an itinerary with the confirmed dates of the visit.

The Chair noted that invitations should be extended to other sister and friendship cities. Although the costs will not be covered by the City of Markham for the additional cities, invitations should be extended for them to join in the celebration of Canada 150. Regional Councillor Armstrong and Councillor Kanapathi support extending an invite to other cities to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. Sandra Tam advised that staff provided the names and addresses of those cities to the Mayors Office, and therefore additional invitations will be sent.

Lorne Smith asked for clarification regarding which legacy projects the City is undertaking. Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community and Fire Services advised that the Canada 150 legacy projects are: Veterans Square; Canada Square; and, Library Square. It was further noted that other Canada 150 projects that the City is working on include: Benjamin Thorne statue at the Thornhill Community Centre entrance; Stiver Mill phase 2 enhancements; Markham Road and Steeles Avenue gateway entrance; Annii Community Centre; and tree plantings.

Brenda Librecz also noted that the City is hosting a Canada 150 Expo which will be a celebration of Markham – “leading while remembering”. The Expo will be a cultural fair that will include music, crafts, and displays, which will be held at the Civic Centre. Once the Canada 150 Expo plans have been finalized, more information will be shared with the public.

Brenda Librecz will contact Martha Pettit to discuss reaching out to the City's BIAs to identify if Canada 150 banners will be placed in areas across Markham.

The City has created Markham 150 flags to commemorate Canada 150. Corporate Communications will provide a link on the City's website to provide the public with the opportunity to purchase Markham 150 flags.

For the next Canada 150 International Partnerships Sub-committee, staff will restructure the agenda so that each delegation will be discussed separately.

6. Future Meetings

Vanessa Rhodes advised the Sub-committee that she is working with the Regional Councillors and Councillors' Assistants to schedule the next meeting date in June, and a meeting invite will be sent out shortly.

7. Adjournment

The Canada 150 International Partnerships Sub-committee adjourned at 5:04 PM.