



MINUTES
CANADA 150
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS SUB-COMMITTEE
June 14, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
Council Chamber

Committee Members

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong
Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Alan Ho
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

Stephen Chait, Director of Culture & Development
Sandra Tam, Senior Business Development Officer
Vanessa Rhodes, Acting Manager of Access & Privacy;
Committee Clerk

Regrets:

Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community
Councillor Alex Chiu
Councillor Karen Rea
Councillor Logan Kanapathi

The Canada 150 International Partnerships Sub-committee convened at 2:07PM with Regional Councillor Li as the Chair.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

That the minutes of the May 1, 2017 Canada 150 International Partnerships Sub-committee be adopted.
CARRIED.

2. Progress to Date

Sandra Tam provided an update to the committee on the invitations the City has sent and the responses received by staff to date. The committee was advised that an invitation letter has been sent to Mayor Joseph Mayer, Wallerstein. Gesture letters have been drafted, however they have not yet been sent by the Mayor's Office, therefore the letters will be revised to reflect that they are invited to the City's Canada 150 celebrations and not just Canada Day. Gesture letters will be sent to the following dignitaries:

- His Excellency C.V. Wigneswaran, Sri Lanka
- Mayor Lin Zhonggian, Huadu, China
- Mayor Li Dong Liang, Xiamen, China
- Mayor Jiao Lansheng, Zhongshan, China
- Mayor Tan Juntie, Meizhou, China
- Mayor Gu Yaohui, Nanhai, China
- Mayor Liu Yi, Jiangmen, China

Sandra Tam will reach out to the Mayor's Office to request the attendance of the German and U.S. Consulate Generals on September 9th for the Berczy dedication ceremony. Stephen Chait requested the Chair, Regional Councillor Li to ask the Mayor to send the invitation letters out to the dignitaries before Canada Day.

3. Budget

The committee was presented a draft budget for the delegation visits, and it was noted that the final budget has not yet been confirmed. The budget that was presented was intended to be an estimate, and may vary depending on the number of people who attend from the delegations.

It was estimated that the cost per delegation will be \$10,000. Included in the budget is gifts, coach buses, ceremony logistics, and meals. Gifts for the delegations have not yet been confirmed, but after Brenda Librecz and Sandra Tam meet with the Mayor and the Canada 150 team, the committee will be advised of the Canada 150 themed gifts available.

Transportation costs per delegation have been estimated at \$1,000 per day per delegation. The committee noted that if transportation is provided to the German delegation, it should also be offered to the delegation from Cary.

The costs that were presented to the committee exceeded the allocated budget provided by the City. To address this concern, Sandra advised that the committee could seek sponsorship to offset the variance in the budget. Before additional funds are requested, Stephen requested the approval of the committee for staff to review what can be removed from the proposed plan and staff will report back on a revised plan at the next committee meeting, which will include a revised budget. The committee approved Stephen's request to present a revised plan.

Stephen provided the committee with an update on whether the City will cover the accommodation costs for all visiting delegations. It was noted that the direction of the CAO is that accommodation costs for any delegation will not be covered by the City, and further that accommodations are not covered by the City of Markham for any guest, which is a policy that is consistently applied at the City.

4. Update: Proposed Programs for Visiting Delegations

a. Nordlingen

Confirmed guests from Nordlingen include the Mayor and Councillor Puffer, and 10 other guests. The delegation will be visiting the City of Markham from September 6-11th. The committee was presented with the first version of the preliminary program. The delegation will be staying at the Holiday Inn Toronto Downtown Centre so that the entire delegation can stay at the same hotel.

The proposed program indicates that the delegation will arrive to Markham in two groups, with the second group arriving on September 6th.

The Official Berczy dedication will take place on September 9th. A lunch will be provided to the delegation by the Lutheran Church on September 10. Deputy Mayor Heath also offered to provide a lunch at the Mandarin for the visiting delegation.

Lorne Smith advised that due to the short visit, a tour of Markham may not be feasible. The program may have to be revised given the time constraints. Therefore, Stephen Chait suggested that the Wednesday or Thursday program be revised, which would include moving the trip to Niagara to another day. Stephen also advised that he may be able to provide staff to assist with the visit to ensure the program is fulfilled on the Wednesday or Thursday, which would ensure the delegation received a cultural experience of Markham.

b. Cary

The list of guest who will be in attendance from Cary has not yet been confirmed; however there will be seven Members of Council and three staff members will be arriving in Markham.

The preliminary program for Cary will include a tour of ventureLAB on Friday September 8th. Stephen advised the committee that the chartered bus will drop off the delegation from Cary to ventureLAB and then continue on a tour for the delegation from Germany.

John Webster advised the committee that the delegation from Cary may be interested in visiting Niagara while they are here, therefore staff should investigate the cost for a 20 person bus, which would include guests from the Germany delegation.

Cary's departure date has not yet been confirmed, they may leave during the evening of September 10th or the morning of Monday September 11th. Therefore, until staff receive a confirmed departure date, the program cannot be completed.

c. Wuhan

Staff have been advised that the Mayor of Wuhan will not be in attendance, as he is only authorized to conduct one overseas trip each year. Therefore, other dignitaries will be in attendance for Canada 150. Once the Wuhan visit has been confirmed, Sandra will send an invite to all members for June 21st.

d. Nanhai

Guests from Nanhai are currently working on obtaining visas. They will have a 10-member High Pile Lion Dance delegation during Markham's Canada Day parade at Milne Park. This visit and program are funded by the Nanhai government, therefore the City of Markham does not have to provide accommodation or transportation for any guest.

To date, Sandra Tam has not heard from the other countries regarding their intention of visiting Markham.

5. Next Steps

Staff have prepared letters for other delegations to advise them of the City's upcoming Canada 150 celebrations and the letters are with the Mayor's Office. Stephen requested that the Chair, Regional Councillor Li reach out to the Mayor's Office and ask for the letters to be sent out shortly so that the additional delegations can plan their schedules accordingly.

Regional Councillor Armstrong asked if there are other means to enhance the funds allocated to this Canada 150 program. Discussion from the last committee meeting included covering costs for accommodations for visiting delegations because when Markham guests visit other countries, their accommodation costs are covered, therefore the City of Markham should reciprocate the generosity that is provided to guests from the City of Markham. Stephen advised that staff do not have the authority to allocate additional funds to support the Canada 150 program. However, the itinerary should not be based on budget, but instead on ensuring the delegations have a fulfilling experience during their stay in Markham. It was also noted that given that the Berczy unveiling is a cultural experience, there may be additional funds that can be allocated to this portion of the program. The tours that occur outside of Markham may be eligible to receive funding for transportation costs through the City's Economic Development Department.

Councillor Burke noted that the City's gift of planting trees on behalf of the delegations could be funded through Trees for Tomorrow. Stephen agreed that the trees can be funded through this program, therefore, the tree planning will not be a significant part of the overall gift budget.

Stephen asked the committee to provide staff authorization to begin planning the program in advance of the next meeting, and the committee was supportive.

6. Future Meetings

Vanessa advised the committee that she will work with the Regional Councillors and Councillors' Assistants to confirm the next meeting date.

7. Adjournment

The International Partnerships Sub-committee meeting adjourned at 2:55
Moved Councillor Ho
Seconded Councillor Burke

CARRIED.