



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES COMMITTEE M I N U T E S

Thursday, January 11, 2024, 9:30 a.m.  
Council Committee Room, City Hall  
4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC

PRESENT: Councillor Pietro Calendino, Chair  
Councillor James Wang, Vice Chair  
Mayor Mike Hurley  
Maita Santiago

STAFF: Noreen Kassam, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer / Chief  
Financial Officer  
Elaine Wong, Office Manager, Mayor's Office  
Julia Alforde, Acting City Archivist  
Denise Chak, Administrative Officer 1

### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the Open Committee meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

### 2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair, Councillor Calendino, recognized the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hə́ŋqəmiŋə́ŋ and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, and extended appreciation for the opportunity to hold a meeting on this territory.

### 3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

#### 3.1 **Agenda for the International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee Open meeting of January 11, 2024**

**THAT** the order of the Agenda be changed to allow Item 8.3 to be moved before Item 8.1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**THAT** the agenda for the International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee of January 11, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Minutes of the International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee Open meeting held on June 6, 2023**

**THAT** the minutes of the International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee meeting held on June 6, 2023, be now adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**5. DELEGATIONS & INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

No delegation requests or presentations were received.

**6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

No administrative reports were received.

**7. INFORMATION REPORTS**

No information reports were received.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

**8.3 Taipei Economic & Cultural Office - Re: Misreference of Taiwan in Friendship City Documents**

Two (2) letters of correspondence were received from the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office of Vancouver (TECO) regarding the misreference of Taiwan in the City of Burnaby Friendship City documents. The letters note City documents use "Taiwan, China", which is inconsistent with the Government of Canada's policy on nomenclature concerning Taiwan. The federal government uses "Taiwan" to refer to Taiwan.

Staff advised that in recent years, the provincial and federal of governments have referred to Taiwan simply as "Taiwan". From an archival perspective, amendments to historical records cannot be made; however, staff can include

amendments to finding aids noting the City of Burnaby recognizes the modern naming convention of Taiwan.

Arising from discussion, the following motion was introduced:

**THAT** the City of Burnaby follow the naming protocol of the Canadian provincial and federal governments for Taiwan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Normal order of Agenda resumed.

**8.1 Mayor of City of Cagayan de Oro - Re: Expression of Interest for Sister City Relations**

Correspondence was received from Mayor Rolando A. Uy of the City of Cagayan de Oro, Phillipines, expressing interest in establishing a sister city relationship with the City of Burnaby.

Arising from discussion, the following motion was introduced:

**THAT** staff review the expression of interest in establishing Sister and Friendship City relationships from the City of Cagayan de Oro and City of Bagio, Philippines, and report back to the Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**8.2 Mayor of City of Mesa - Re: Invitation to City of Mesa, Arizona**

Correspondence was received from Mayor John Giles of Mesa, Arizona, inviting staff and council members of the City of Burnaby to Mesa, Arizona in the spring of 2024 to commemorate 25 years of the Sister City relationship between the two cities.

**THAT** staff provide a report to Council outlining the budget and seeking approval for the proposed Sister City visit to Mesa, Arizona in 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**8.4 Mayor of City of Baguio - Re: Expression on Interest to Build More Robust Ties with the City of Burnaby**

Correspondence was received from Mayor Benjamin Magalong of the City of Baguio, Phillipines, expressing interest in building more robust ties with the City of Burnaby.

See resolution for item 8.1.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Sister City and Friendship City Visit in 2025**

Chair Calendino noted 2025 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sister City relationship between the City of Burnaby and Kushiro, Japan, as well as the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sister City relationship between the City of Burnaby and Hwaseong, Korea.

The Committee requested that staff look into planning a visit to Kushiro, Japan, Hwaseong, South Korean and Taichung, Taiwan in 2025.

Staff undertook to report back to the Committee.

**Hwaseong Delegation Itinerary**

Staff advised a delegation of 17 people from Sister City Hwaseong, South Korea, will be visiting Burnaby from January 14-15, 2024, and provided an overview of the itinerary.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

By unanimous consent, the Open Committee meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

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Councillor Pietro Calendino  
CHAIR

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Denise Chak  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER