



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, November 18, 2024, 11:00 a.m.
Council Chamber, City Hall
4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC

PRESENT: Councillor Pietro Calendino, Chair
Councillor James Wang, Vice Chair (*participated electronically*)
Maita Santiago, Member (*participated electronically*)

STAFF: Rajvir Rao, Director Intergovernmental Relations and Strategic Partnerships
Elaine Wong, Office Manager, Mayor's Office
Anastassiya Denissenko, Administrative Officer 1
Ruslan Shabazov, Council Support Assistant

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the Committee meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

3.1 **International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee Agenda for November 18, 2024**

THAT the agenda for the International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee meeting of Monday, November 18, 2024 be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**4.1 Minutes of the International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee
Open meeting held on September 26, 2024**

THAT the minutes of the International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee meeting held on September 26, 2024, be now adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

No delegation or invited presentation requests were received.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

No Administrative Reports were received.

7. INFORMATION REPORTS

7.1 VERBAL REPORT: SISTER AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES

The Director Intergovernmental Relations and Strategic Partnerships provided a verbal report regarding the status of current Sister and Friendships Cities requests and dates for 2025 international delegation requests.

Arising from discussion, the Committee agreed that there is a need to amend the report titled “2025 Official Sister and Friendship Cities Visit to Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan” that was presented to the Committee on July 23, 2024, to reflect the updated travel dates and delegation destinations. *(Note from Legislative Services: In July 2024, the report was put on hold in order for the Committee to receive more information on the delegation requests and proposed dates).*

Staff undertook to amend the report and include travel cost breakdowns for the report and forward the report to the December 2, 2024, City Council meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Shuangliu District Government - Re: Friendship City Partnership

Correspondence was received from the Shuangliu District Government expressing interest in establishing cooperative relations between the City of Burnaby and Chengdu City.

THAT a reply be sent to the Shuangliu District Government to indicate that the City of Burnaby is in the process of re-evaluating its existing Sister and Friendship Cities Partnerships and is thus currently not pursuing any new Friendship City Partnerships.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 City of Kushiro - Re: Plans for 60 Anniversary Commemoration Project

Correspondence was received from the City of Kushiro advising of the best dates to visit Kushiro in 2025.

THAT the City of Burnaby confirm attendance of the delegation to visit the City of Kushiro during the “Kushiro Tairyō Donpaku” event, which will take place on September 13 and 14, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.3 Hwaseong City - Re: Invitation to Attend 24th Hwaseong Citizen's Day Commemoration Ceremony

Correspondence was received from Hwaseong City inviting a delegation of Burnaby to attend the “24th Hwaseong Citizen’s Day Commemoration Ceremony” on March 21, 2025.

THAT a reply be sent to Hwaseong City regarding unavailability of a delegation from the City of Burnaby to visit Hwaseong City in March 2025, and offer a visit in September 2025 instead.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business brought before the Committee at this time.

10. ADJOURNMENT

By unanimous consent, and without objection, the Committee meeting adjourned at 11.13 a.m.

Councillor Pietro Calendino
CHAIR

Anastassiya Denissenko
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER