



City of Barrie

70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Final International Relations Committee

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

6:00 PM

Sir Robert Barrie Room

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT For consideration by Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee on January 24, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, M. Sachkiw at 6:03 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

- Present:** 12 - Councillor J. Harris
M. Sachkiw - Co Chair and Arras
Deputy Mayor R. Thomson
LCol G. Johnston - Base Borden
J. Babcock - Global Perspectives Program
T. Gardiner - Japan Twinning
W. Hay
A. Jones
J. Massie
L. Palson - Georgian College
S. Scully-Pratt - Youth Ambassadors
K. Watson - Georgian College
- Absent:** 3 - C. Hassey
J. M. Pigeon - German Twinning
B. Sergeant - Harrogate

STAFF:

Business Development Officer, N. Gavarre
Director of Economic and Creative Economy, S. Schlichter
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard
Manager of Business Development, D. Brooke-Bisschop.

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE COMMITTEE'S STRUCTURE

Darcy Brooke-Bisschop, Manager of Business Development and Nora Gavarre, Business Development Officer provided a presentation concerning the structure of the International Relations Committee.

Mr. Brooke-Bisschop and Ms. Gavarre discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- The objectives of the Committee:
- The International City Relationship Framework
- The proposed four pillars to Sister City Relationships which includes youth and education, business and trade, arts, culture and heritage and community development;
- The proposed two priority pillars of youth and education, and business and trade;
- Invest Barrie's suggestions to support the municipality's business and trade portfolio including the development of a workplan, creating new relationships and supporting the existing sister cities and twin cities; and
- The Committee's next steps.

Members of Committee asked a number of questions of Mr. Brooke-Bisschop, Ms. Gavarre and Ms. Schlichter.

FOLLOW UP MICHIGAN EXPLORATION - NEXT STEPS

The Committee discussed the next steps in the Michigan exploration project as follows:

- Barrie's familiarization with Saginaw, Michigan and that their first step should be to engage with community representatives;
- Suggested defining the goals, objectives and criteria for exploring economic partnerships; and
- Working with Invest Barrie to help them achieve their goals to support Barrie's business development.

Jamie Massie advised that Saginaw, Michigan hockey team will be in Barrie in February and suggested that it might be a great time to connect with representatives of that community.

Councillor J. Harris, Mark Sachkiw, and Al Jones volunteered to work with staff in Invest Barrie to create a template and develop the criteria for economic partnerships and business exchanges.

The Committee agreed to send correspondence to the City's existing international partnerships concerning the new direction of the International Relations Committee.

HARROGATE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT EXCHANGE

Councillor, J. Harris provided an update concerning the Harrogate Business Improvement District Exchange. He advised that Matthew Chapman from Harrogate, United Kingdom, visited Barrie, met with the Downtown Barrie Business Improvement Association and Chamber of Commerce. Councillor Harris commented that Mr. Chapman showed interest in fostering business improvement exchange between the two municipalities.

YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Shannon Scully-Pratt provided an overview of the Youth Ambassador program as it relates to applications, selection process for youth delegation and leaders, and the cultural educational sessions.

Ms. Scully-Pratt advised that a youth delegation including two leaders traveled to Murayama, Japan in August, 2023. She commented that a final debrief with the two youth leaders concerning last years trip to Japan will be completed.

Ms. Scully-Pratt advised that there are plans for a reciprocal visit from a youth delegation from Murayama, Japan in 2024. Mark Sachkiw discussed the potential budget for the 2024 youth delegation from Japan.

The Committee discussed the current processes of the youth ambassador program, including their concerns, provided suggestions for improving the program, and potentially looking at revamping the program for 2025.

Jamie Babcock provided an update concerning the Global Perspectives Program at Innisdale Secondary School, and the success of the fall program. Mr. Babcock advised that the deadline for students to apply for the 2024 Global Perspectives program is scheduled for February 16, 2024.

Mr. Babcock noted that the City's connection with Georgian College is a good pillar for youth.

GERMAN DELEGATION FOLLOW UP

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Economy provided an update on the German delegation and their interaction with SPS Drive Tec in Barrie.

Mark Sachkiw and Al Jones commented that it was a positive interaction with the business community.

The Committee discussed future plans to organize a business delegation to travel to Germany.

SETTING COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2024

The Committee discussed their priorities and budget requirements for 2024 which includes commitments with the Global Perspectives Program and Japan Twinning.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

CHAIRMAN