

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023 **MEETING NO. 02-2023**  
**TIME:** 12:07 P.M.  
**PLACE:** HYBRID MEETING –  
MCNAUGHTON ROOM & VIA MS TEAMS  
**CHAIR:** MATTHEW VILLELLA

**PRESENT :**

Councillor Trevor Giertuga  
Hiroko Bekki-Moller  
Kelly Fettes  
Matthew Villella  
Peng You  
Michael Nicin, Lakehead University  
Paul Pepe, Tourism Thunder Bay  
Miriam Wall, Confederation College

**OFFICIALS:**

Krista Power, City Clerk  
Tracie Smith, Director – Strategic Initiatives & Engagement  
Tina Larocque, Coordinator – Boards, Committees and Special Projects

**AGENDA**

**1.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Matthew Villella disclosed an interest relative to the funding request from Port Arthur Rotary as he is a member.

**2.0 AGENDA APPROVAL**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Trevor Giertuga  
**SECONDED BY:** Peng You

WITH RESPECT to the March 1, 2023 Sister Cities Advisory Committee, we recommend that the agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

### 3.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of Meeting No. 01-2023 of the Sister Cities Advisory Committee, held on February 1, 2023, to be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Peng You  
SECONDED BY: Councillor Trevor Giertuga

THAT the Minutes of Meeting No. 01-2023 held on February 1, 2023, be confirmed.

CARRIED

### 4.0 SISTER CITIES EVALUATION

The Chair Matthew Villella provided a PowerPoint presentation and an overview of the evaluation of the Sister Cities to date.

The Chair responded to questions.

The Committee discussed the importance of focusing on the current number of Sister Cities, and how to strengthen these relationships before we decide on whether or not to add additional cities.

Once we have completed our evaluation work on our current Sister Cities, we would then move on to evaluate our Friendship Cities.

The City Clerk advised that once we have completed our work and evaluation of our current Sister City relationships, the information will be presented to City Council. In the presentation it would be important to note the impact on our community, the economic and cultural benefits of our relationships. The impacts on both communities from these relationships are very important.

### 5.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference and had suggested the following changes:

- By including the Communications Subcommittee and an Evaluation Committee.
- By including a reference about the Travel Policy and Reimbursement of member's expenses.
- By including a process for funding requests for transparency, structure, clarity and what type of requests we would accept.

The Office of the City Clerk will make the suggested changes and it will be presented to a future Committee meeting for further review.

## 6.0 COMMITTEE FINANCE – UPDATE

Tina Larocque provided an update on the current approved Sister City program budget for 2023. Tina had advised the estimated expenses for this upcoming year, with the Peace Bell Ceremony, delegation to Little Canada and a possible delegation from Gifu in the fall.

## 7.0 SISTER CITY UPDATES

### 7.1 Duluth Tourism Exchange

Paul Pepe, Manager of Tourism provided an overview of the Tourism Exchange that they have started working on with the City of Duluth. Paul Pepe will provide more information at future meetings once more information has been confirmed.

### 7.2 Sister City Seinäjoki, Finland

Krista Power had advised that we have reached out to our Sister City in Seinäjoki to continue our discussions and exchanges between our cities. Due to Covid, there had been a break of travel between the two cities. In terms of the Sister Cities agreements, agreements are signed every five years. Seinäjoki, Finland is scheduled for this year for the signing of the agreement.

### 7.3 Jiaozuo, China

Committee member Peng You provided an update relative to Jiaozuo. He congratulated the new Council. Peng You provided an overview of Tai Chi training that is being offered for free to youth and would like to assist and be part of the project. Jiaozuo would be taking care of all expenses for the youth, but they would need to travel to Beijing to participate in this program. It was consensus of the Committee that Peng You will present formally at a future meeting date.

### 7.4 Gifu City, Japan

Committee member Hiroko advised that she would like to restart the exchange program and a High school international program. Will be speaking to Administration in Gifu about these ideas when she travels in a couple of weeks. She would also like to continue with her virtual art museum idea.

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8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Macgillivray Pipe Band – Funding Request

Correspondence from Clint Kraft, Band manager, Macgillivray Pipe Band received February 27, 2023 relative to seeking funding for travel to Canadian Days 2023 in Little Canada, Minnesota, was distributed separately to members on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

MOVED BY: Councillor Trevor Giertuga  
SECONDED BY: Peng You

WITH REPECT to the funding request received from Macgillivray Pipe Band, the Committee has a limited budget this year and therefore not able to fulfil this request.

CARRIED

The office of the city clerk will contact Clint Kraft to provide information on the Committee decision.

8.2 Port Arthur Rotary – Funding Request

Matthew Villella had disclosed an interest relative to this item, and refrained from discussing and voting on this matter.

Correspondence from Brian Walmark, President, Port Arthur Rotary received January 31, 2023 relative to seeking funding for the celebration of the Outlaw Bridge at the Pigeon River crossing, was distributed separately Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

The committee discussed this funding request and it was consensus that it is more appropriate to be requested from the Council Budget.

MOVED BY: Peng You  
SECONDED BY: Kelly Fettes

WITH RESPECT to the funding request received from the Port Arthur Rotary, the Committee is not able to fulfil this request as it's not under the Committee's criteria for funding requests.

The Office of the City Clerk will contact the Port Arthur Rotary to advise of the Committee decision.

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8.3 Committee Member – Travel Funding Request

The Committee discussed the upcoming travel of a Committee member Hiroko to one of our Sister Cities Gifu, Japan. The Committee member will be meeting with members of the Gifu City International Affairs Division, and Gifu Canada Association at City Hall and discussions will be held relative to exchange programs and signing of the Sister Cities agreement. Hiroko is requesting funding to cover the train to Gifu, accommodations and meals.

MOVED BY: Trevor Giertuga

SECONDED BY: Peng You

WITH RESPECT to Committee member Hiroko's travel to Gifu City, we recommend that she be reimbursed up to \$700.00 for the travel to Gifu, which can include accommodations and meals.

CARRIED

9.0 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.