



**Final
International Relations Committee**

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

6:00 PM

Sir Robert Barrie Room

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee on
December 11, 2024.**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Councillor, J. Harris at 6:02 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 14 - Co-Chair – Councillor J. Harris
Co-Chair M. Sachkiw
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
LCol G. Johnston
J. Babcock
T. Gardiner
C. Hassey
W. Hay
J. Massie
L. Palson
J. M. Pigeon
B. Sergeant
S. Scully-Pratt
K. Watson

Absent: 1 - A. Jones

STAFF:

Business Development Officer, N. Gavarre
Coordinator of Elections and Special Projects, T. McArthur
Director of Economic and Creative Development, S. Schlichter
Director of Legislative and Court Services/City Clerk, W. Cooke
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

COMMITTEE MID-TERM TRAINING

Tara McArthur, Coordinator of Elections and Special Projects, provided a presentation to the Committee regarding Committee processes:

Ms. McArthur discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- Council and Committee Code of Conduct;
- The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act;
- The decision making process;
- The City of Barrie Procedural By-law;
- The Procedural By-law - Public Notice Accountability;
- Agenda items and deadlines;
- Quorum and meeting dates moving forward;
- Roles of the Chair and Committee Members;
- The Committee Work Plan; and
- Committee Working Groups.

The Committee asked a number of questions of Ms. McArthur and received responses.

COMMITTEE BUDGET UPDATE

Tammie Maynard, Legislative Coordinator provided an update concerning the Committee's budget.

The Committee approved an additional expenditure of up to \$700.00 which is in addition to the amount of \$8,000.00 approved by the Committee at their meeting held on September 3, 2024 from the International Relations Committee budgets to cover costs associated with catering and t-shirts for the Global Perspectives Program at Innisdale Secondary School.

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development provided an update concerning expenditures related to the Germany Invest Barrie Trip will provide a further update at the next Committee meeting.

Wendy Cooke, Director of Legislative and Court Services Department provided an update concerning the Committee's reserve fund and legacy fund. The Committee asked a number of questions of Ms. Cooke related to the reserve fund, future Committee budgets and legacy fund and received responses. Staff in Legislative and Court Services Department will develop a budget spreadsheet for the Committee.

The International Relations Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND

That any unused reserve funds from 2024 be transferred back to the International Relations Committee reserve fund.

This matter was recommended to Finance and Responsible Governance Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 12/11/2024.

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "C"

YOUTH AMBASSADORS/GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM

The Committee discussed the youth ambassador program and processes for developing alternative program options to support the City's partnerships and sister cities relationships.

The Committee members discussed setting up a sub-committee to look at alternative options for a youth ambassador program. Further discussion will take place at the next Committee meeting.

Jamie Babcock provided an update concerning the Global Perspectives Program. He advised that the application process will begin in February 2025 for students in grade 10 who wish to apply for the Program.

The International Relations Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "D"

YOUTH AMBASSADOR/GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAMS

1. That the travel portion of the Youth Ambassador Program be suspended, and
2. That funding support continue to be provided to the Global Perspectives Program at Innisdale Secondary School for the remainder of the term of Council.

This matter was recommended to Finance and Responsible Governance Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 12/11/2024.

YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

That staff in the Legislative and Court Services Department investigate the feasibility of developing an alternative youth ambassador program and report back to the International Relations Committee.

This matter was recommended to Finance and Responsible Governance Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 12/11/2024.

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "E"

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN UPDATE

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development provided an update concerning Saginaw, Michigan. Ms. Schlichter suggested that the Committee put thought into plans for 2025. Further discussion will take place at a future Committee meeting.

Councillor, J. Harris will forward information to the Mayor of Saginaw concerning Barrie's Youth Council.

ZWEIBRUCKEN, GERMANY UPDATE

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development provided a follow up concerning the Germany Invest Barrie trip during November 2024 which was comprised of Committee members and local business owners. She commented on the positive experience, of the delegation including networking, information sharing and relationship building opportunities for both municipalities. Councillor, J. Harris, Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson, Wayne Hay and Collin Hassey provided comments of their positive experience visiting Germany.

Councillor, J. Harris, Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson and Wayne Hay thanked Jean Maurice Pigeon for his assistance planning the delegation's trip and his years of service fostering the relationship between Barrie and Zweibrucken, Germany.

HARROGATE, UNITED KINGDOM UPDATE

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning Harrogate, United Kingdom. He commented on Harrogate's Anniversary of the Broken Glass on November 9, 2024.

Mr. Sergeant spoke about Georgian College's plans for a student trip between the college in Barrie and Harrogate between February 1, 2025 and February 15, 2025.

ARRAS, FRANCE UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair provided an update concerning Arras, France. He advised that Arras, France has cancelled plans to host a Beer Festival and are instead organizing a French Fry Festival.

Mr. Sachkiw indicated that he will be using his contacts in Arras, France to assist a local group with their travel plans during spring 2025.

SIR ROBERT BARRIE PROJECT UPDATE

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning the Sir Robert Barrie Project, and the donation of the Royal Canadian Ensign 1945. Mr. Sergeant advised that the Sir Robert Barrie Committee plans to present the ensign at the City Council meeting scheduled for January 15, 2025, and that the framed ensign will be hung in the Mayor's Office.

2025 COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The Committee will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. and that no meeting will occur in January, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

CHAIRMAN