



Hastings District Council

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OPEN MINUTES

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Date: **Monday, 5 March 2012**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the International Advisory Group held on
5 March 2012 at 3.30pm**

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HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP HELD IN LANDMARKS ROOM, GROUND FLOOR, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, LYNDON ROAD EAST, HASTINGS ON MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2012 AT 3.30PM

PRESENT: **Chair:** Councillor Watkins
Councillor Henderson
Mr D Bromwich, Mr D Brownrigg, Mr J Morgan, Mrs S
Russell, Mr B Young

IN ATTENDANCE: Advisor to the Mayor and Chief Executive (Ms C Paget)
Policy Advisor (Mr B Murdoch)
Economic and Social Development Manager (Mr S Breen)
Democratic Support Manager (Mrs J Pani)
Committee Secretary (Mrs C Hunt)

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Watkins/Councillor Henderson

That apologies for absence from Mayor Yule, Councillor O'Keefe and Ms Travers be accepted.

CARRIED

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

There were no General Business Items.

4. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONFIRMATION

Councillor Henderson/Mr Brownrigg

That the minutes of the Guilin Sister Cities Board of Directors held 15 November 2011 be received.

CARRIED

5. SISTER CITY ACTIVITY REPORT

The Advisor to the Mayor and Chief Executive, Ms Paget advised that the purpose of the report was to update the Board about Sister City activity since the last Board meeting.

Guilin Forum Meeting – This was held on 14 December 2011 and approximately 30 people attended. At the Forum the Mayor presented on future Sister City activity and gave an update on the change from Guilin Board to the International Advisory Board.

Education Link Group – Mrs Geraldine Travers had resigned Chair and Mrs Sue Stove-Padfield was elected. Mrs Travers had been Chair for approximately eight years, and in recognition of her time and work the International Advisory Group agreed that a letter be sent to her acknowledging their appreciation of her work.

The meeting agreed that assistance in producing publicity material about Hastings and its schools to be used in China could be funded.

International Cultures Day – The Osmanthus Garden was lit and decorated with Chinese lanterns from 1-4 March 2012 to coincide with the International Cultures Day. However, due to inclement weather the International Cultures Day was cancelled and would be held in 2013.

It was noted that the organising group of the International Cultures Day did not receive any formal notification regarding the cancellation of the event. The organising group was unaware that the Chinese lanterns were to be displayed and therefore had not been included in advertising.

It was agreed that more communication between the organising group for 2013 would be required.

Guangxi Garden and Horticulture Expo – Following a request for assistance from the Foreign Affairs office, circulated at the meeting was a coloured master plan of a proposed garden.

It was agreed that assistance from the Council's planning and landscape design team be sought in terms of what would be practical. Advice from He Xin to be sought on whether there is an expectation that someone from New Zealand visits to assist and whether there would be financial support.

Sister Cities New Zealand Conference – Ms Paget indicated her desire to attend the conference. No other member of the group wished to attend. Councillor Watkins would attend as a member of Sister Cities New Zealand and it was anticipated that his registration, accommodation and travel would be met by Sister Cities New Zealand.

Mr Morgan/Mr Young

- A) **That the report of the Advisor to Mayor and Chief Executive titled Sister "City Activity report" dated 5/03/2012 be received.**
- B) **That the International Advisory Group allocates funding up to a maximum of \$5000.00 for Education Link Group activity in 2012.**
- C) **That approval be granted to the Advisor to the Mayor and Chief Executive and Councillor Watkins, Wellington in May 2012, with conference fee (\$585 plus GST per person), travel and accommodation costs up to \$1500.00 each to be met from the Sister City Board**

allocation (if full funding was not available for Councillor Watkins through Sister Cities New Zealand).

With the reasons for this decision being that the objective of the decision will contribute to the Council's Strategic Objectives by:

- **Fostering civic pride in our community by developing and enhancing our relationship with Guilin, China.**

CARRIED

Mr Morgan/Mr Young

That a letter be sent to Mrs Geraldine Travers acknowledging and thanking her for the time and effort she has contributed during her role as Chair of the Education Link Group.

CARRIED

6. SISTER CITY ACCOUNT BALANCE TO END FEBRUARY 2012

The Advisor to the Mayor and Chief Executive, Ms Paget advised that the purpose of the report was to update the International Advisory Group about the balance of the Sister City accounts to the end of February 2012. There had been no expenditure since the last meeting on 15 November 2011.

Mr Brownrigg/Councillor Henderson

That the report of the Advisor to Mayor and Chief Executive titled "Sister City Account Balance" to end February 2012 dated 5/03/2012 be received.

CARRIED

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Advisor to the Mayor and Chief Executive, Ms Paget advised that the purpose of this report was to advise the Advisory Group about the adoption by the Council of an International Economic Development Strategy, and to seek advice on appointments to the International Advisory Group.

Circulated at the meeting was an updated version of the 23 February 2012 report to the Policy and Strategy Committee meeting. The report attached to the agenda was an incorrect version. The correct version of the report was circulated at the meeting.

Given the Council's adoption of the International Economic Development Strategy and work to achieve the objectives in this Strategy and China Action Plan, it was necessary for the International Advisory Group to consider who was best placed within the region to progress the International Economic Development Strategy alongside the International Advisory Group.

There was robust discussion regarding this issue and the change in direction of the Statement of Intent.

It was agreed that it may be beneficial to have a workshop to discuss the membership of the International Advisory Group in light of Council's direction set by the recently adopted International Economic Development Strategy.

Members to email Ms Paget on their views on the strategy and membership of the International Advisory Group by 31 March 2012.

Councillor Watkins/Mr Young

That the report of the Advisor to Mayor and Chief Executive titled "Implementation of the International Advisory Group Statement of Intent" dated 5/03/2012 be received.

CARRIED

The meeting closed 5.10pm

Confirmed:

Chairman:

Date: