



Hastings District Council

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OPEN MINUTES

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Date: **Monday, 15 October 2012**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the International Advisory Group held on
Monday, 15 October 2012 at 3.30pm**

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HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP HELD IN THE LANDMARKS ROOM, GROUND FLOOR, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, LYNDON ROAD EAST, HASTINGS ON MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2012 AT 3.30PM

PRESENT: **Chair:** Mrs S Russell (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Henderson
Mr D Brownrigg, Mr J Morgan, Mrs S Padfield,
Ms R Speekenbrink, Mr T Too and Mr B Young

IN ATTENDANCE: Project Manager: Executive Office (Ms C Paget)
Economic and Social Development Manager (Mr S Breen)
Committee Secretary (Mrs C Hilton)

1. APOLOGIES

Mr Young/Mr Brownrigg

That apologies for absence from Mayor Yule and Mr Bromwich be accepted.

CARRIED

Leave of Absence had previously been granted to Councillor Watkins.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONFIRMATION

Mr Young/Councillor Henderson

That the minutes of the International Advisory Group held 20 August 2012 be confirmed as a true and correct record and be adopted.

CARRIED

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

The members of the Group introduced themselves and briefly backgrounded their experience. The Project Manager: Executive Office, Ms Paget, highlighted the main points in the report which had been written to complete the formalities of the changeover to the International Advisory Group.

Mr Brownrigg/Councillor Henderson

That the report of the Project Manager: Executive Office titled "Membership of the International Advisory Group" dated 15/10/2012 be received.

CARRIED

5. SISTER CITY AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY REPORT

The Project Manager: Executive Office, Ms Paget, highlighted the main points in the report and each section was extensively discussed in turn. Ms Paget noted that the Statement of Intent addressed the aim and general direction of the Group, which was evolving.

It was noted that during this transition phase, while keeping China as its core focus, the Group now had the ability to also work with other nationalities as and when suitable opportunities arose.

Considerable discussion took place regarding Section 2.0 regarding the membership/makeup of the Group. Messrs Morgan and Brownrigg confirmed that they were willing to continue as members of the Group during this transition time, but would both step down at the time of the next local authority elections in October 2013. Their valuable contribution and experience was acknowledged. Mr Too was representing the HB Chinese Association. Representatives from other groups or organisations, including Iwi, the Hastings District Youth Council and the HB Ethnic Association, were still to be appointed. Officers would follow up these appointments. Other suggestions were made regarding possible contacts for membership with a particular interest in Asian culture in regard to business or education links.

Representative from the Youth Council would be best left until the new school year when the incoming Council would be established and an invitation could be extended to them. A youth representative or a young people's link group, could be a helpful contact(s) for international students studying in HB. The Youth Council could also be invited to undertake a project on behalf of the Group to establish a strong connection between the two organisations. HB Youth Orchestra could form part of a future delegation visit to China.

Education Link Group – further comments were made expanding on the details in the report. Issues related to having exchange teachers here needed to be worked through (paye etc). Messrs Too and Young would extend invitations to visiting students to attend local functions to make them feel welcome. Ms Speekenbrink was also keen to help with any such events.

Attachment 1 - Mayor Yule had asked to visit Guangxi Institute of Botany. This invitation had been followed up quickly from this end, to show the importance of this. "Asians in the Bay" – Ms Paget, Ms Speekenbrink and Mr Too were on the working group and this event would be held in HB next year, possibly in Napier. Planting Chinese Osmanthus trees would be a long term suggestion. Promotion of travel to HB to be further encouraged and explored were discussed.

Mr Brownrigg/Councillor Henderson

That the report of the Project Manager: Executive Office titled "Sister City and International Activity Report" dated 15/10/2012 be received.

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

CARRIED

6. INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP ACCOUNT BALANCE TO END SEPTEMBER 2012

This was the first report in this financial year. A delegation of authority was being sought to enable expenditure of less than \$1,000 to be undertaken with approval from the Chair.

Mr Young/Mr Brownrigg

- A) That the report of the Project Manager: Executive Office titled "International Advisory Group Account Balance to end September 2012" dated 15/10/2012 be received.**
- B) That the officer responsible for the "International Advisory Group" and "IAG Cultural Activity" budgets (currently the Project Manager: Executive Office) be delegated to approve expenditure up to \$1,000.00**

CARRIED

7. TRADE WITH CHINA: VERBAL UPDATE

The Economic and Social Development Manager, Mr S Breen, gave a detailed verbal report on the recent visit, to Hong Kong and mainland China that he had been part of during the previous week, with Mayor Yule and the Council's Chief Financial Officer. Mr Breen noted places and businesses they had visited as well as contacts and possible opportunities to develop business in regard to HB wines, pilot training and honey.

A copy of Mr Breen's report on this visit, to an upcoming Council meeting, would be circulated to all IAG members once it had been completed.

Mr Breen noted the possible benefits from HB businesses working as a cluster, rather than as individuals, to enter the Chinese market. The group had also been to a Korean export event in order to compare this to the Chinese approach.

Mr Breen reported that there was a low local awareness of HB wines in China and we would be competing with a strong market presence from other countries, such as Chile.

Mr Brownrigg/Councillor Henderson

That the report of the Economic and Social Development Manager titled "Trade with China: Verbal Update" dated 15/10/2012 be received.

CARRIED

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS ITEMS

There were no additional business items.

9. EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS ITEMS

There were no extraordinary business items.

The meeting closed at 5.10pm

Confirmed:

Chairman:

Date: