

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 29, 2013

Item 21, Report No. 1, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on January 29, 2013, as follows:

That Regional Councillor Schulte's name be deleted from the list of participants.

21

TRAVEL TO BAGUIO CITY, PHILIPPINES

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Executive Director, dated January 15, 2013, be approved; and
- 2) That Regional Councillors Rosati and Schulte, and Councillor Iafrate, and a possible fourth Member of Council to be named by the Mayor, be selected to participate in the Baguio City Flower Festival official events in Baguio City, Philippines, on February 23 and 24, 2013, in recognition and support of the friendship agreement between the City of Vaughan and Baguio City.

Recommendation

The Executive Director, in the Office of the City Manager recommends:

1. THAT the invitation from Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan, Baguio City, Philippines be received, and;
2. THAT Council identify if any Member(s) of Council will be participating in the Baguio City Flower Festival official events on February 23 and 24, 2013 in recognition and support of the friendship agreement between the City of Vaughan and Baguio City; and,
3. THAT in order to facilitate the timing needed to complete travel arrangements, Council ratify the action taken.

Contribution to Sustainability

Not applicable.

Economic Impact

As the primary purpose of this trip is to represent Council and the City at a social and cultural event with Vaughan's friendship city, Baguio City- the Council Member Expense Policy (Section 9.31 - Travel), does allow for all travel related costs to be expensed to the individual Council Member's budget.

Staff has confirmed that while in Baguio, costs for lodging (three rooms) and transportation will be paid for by Baguio City. Additional costs for meals, incidentals and airfare are the responsibility of the Member of Council that is travelling.

Currently, staff has estimated round trip economy airfare (including fees and taxes) to Manila is approximately \$1,700 - \$1,900. Ground transportation from Manila to Baguio will be provided.

Communications Plan

A news release will be distributed to media outlets by the Corporate Communications Department.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 29, 2013

Item 21, CW Report No. 1 – Page 2

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of an invitation letter from the Mayor of Baguio City, inviting Mayor and Members of Council to attend the Baguio City Flower Festival February 23 and 24, 2013. This is the largest and most prestigious festival hosted by Baguio.

Background – Analysis and Options

Baguio City, Philippines has been a friendship city with Vaughan since 1997. Since the signing of the friendship agreement, several delegations from Baguio City have visited Vaughan. With the assistance of the Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan (FCAV), Vaughan has maintained the friendship relationship including most recently hosting an official delegation led by Baguio City Mayor, Mauricio G. Domogan, which celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the signing of the Friendship Agreement between the two cities. The delegation was in Vaughan from October 24 – 28, 2012. During their visit to Vaughan, the Economic Development Department assisted with arranging meetings and site visits including a site visit to the Archetype Sustainable House at the Living City Campus at Kortright. Baguio City officials had expressed a desire to learn more about environmental best practices while they were in Vaughan. Also scheduled during the visit was an official lunch reception hosted by the Economic Development Department for Mayor, Members of Council and Senior Management with the Baguio delegation.

Prior to the official visit this past October, Deputy Mayor Gino Rosati travelled to Baguio in September 2009, following an official invitation from Baguio City to celebrate its 100th year as a Chartered City and to participate in the Sister Cities and Town Twinning Summit. The Summit, with the theme of "Fostering a Culture of Oneness" promoted friendship and goodwill through an understanding of the achievements and experiences of its international partnership program. The City did not incur any costs associated with Councillor Rosati's travel to participate in this cultural event.

During the Summit, Baguio City unveiled its Celebration Park with monuments from each of its Sister and Friendship cities located around the world. The City of Vaughan's friendship sign that was constructed in the park, depicts a style reminiscent of Ontario and Canada incorporating rock, wood and the maple leaf. In addition, the City's official seal is prominently displayed. (Attachment 1).

Invitation From Baguio City

An invitation letter (Attachment 2) was received in the Mayor's office from the Office of the City Mayor, Baguio City inviting the Mayor and Members of Council to travel to Baguio City to celebrate in the month-long flower festival known as the "Panagbenga" - *The Season of Blooming*, by participating in the Street Dancing Parade on February 23, 2013 and the Grand Float Parade on February 24, 2013. Baguio City has indicated that they will cover the costs for ground transportation and three hotel rooms within Baguio.

Panagbenga - The Season of Blooming

The Panagbenga, is a Kankana-ey term for "a season of blooming." Since 1995 this cultural festival has highlighted the beautiful flowers the city is famous for as well as a celebration of its re-establishment as a premier Philippines tourist destination after the 1990 earthquake. Also known as the Baguio Flower Festival, the event showcases floral floats, native dances, local culinary exhibition, and other activities such as Pony Boys Day, the Flower Tee Golf Tournament, and a barangay garden competition.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 29, 2013

Item 21, CW Report No. 1 – Page 3

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set out by Council.

Regional Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The Filipino Community Association of Vaughan has been actively promoting the friendship relationship with the City since its inception 15 years ago. Therefore, attendance at the Flower Festival in February would be a positive relationship building exercise between the City of Vaughan and Baguio City and further Vaughan's commitment to the friendship agreement which is centred on opportunities for social and cultural exchanges.

In addition, Council adopted the Cultural and Social International City Partnership framework as presented by Staff in May, 2011. One of the requirements for existing friendship and sister cities is that any request for foreign travel associated with the City's current social and cultural international partnerships will be brought on a case-by-case basis for Council approval.

Staff in the Economic Development Department will offer support to any Member of Council wishing to attend. However, the work associated with the 10 year economic development strategy identified that the department should focus on international partnerships from a business development perspective, and thus any travel associated with attending the Flower Festival should be covered by the individual Council Members budget.

Attachments

1. Sister City Monument Sign
2. Letter of Invitation from Baguio City

Report prepared by:

Tim Simmonds

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)