
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS DATE: 2006 April 19

FROM: HIS WORSHIP, MAYOR D. R. CORRIGAN

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SUBJECT: INVITATION FROM SISTER CITY, KUSHIRO, JAPAN

PURPOSE: To obtain Council approval for an official visit to Kushiro, Japan, August 2006

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council accept the invitation from Kushiro, Japan to visit during the Port Festival between the dates of 2006 August 01 - 09 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Sister City friendship.
2. **THAT** Council authorize the payment of costs associated with the visit to Kushiro return, including airfare, accommodation, transportation, interpretive and ~~travel~~ services and official gifts estimated to be \$45,350.
3. **THAT** Council authorize the payment of costs associated with the hosting of a reciprocal event in Kushiro on 2006 August 06 as an expression of appreciation from Burnaby to Kushiro at an estimated cost of \$15,000.
4. **THAT** His Worship, Mayor Derek Corrigan, Councillor Pietro Calendino, Councillor Sav Dhaliwal, Councillor Garth Evans, Councillor Colleen Jordan, Mr. Ron Burton, Chair, Burnaby School Board, Ms. Brenda Wagg, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Fukawa, Citizen Representatives, Ms. Barbara Woods, Artist, Ms. Etsuko Yamnouchi, Interpreter and Mr. Yoshin Tamaki, Tour Conductor be appointed as delegates of Council for the purpose of this visit.

REPORT

During the past 40 years the City of Burnaby has enjoyed a Sister City relationship with the City of Kushiro, Japan. In the time this agreement has been in place the Councils of both cities have undertaken reciprocal visits in recognition of our ties of friendship and to promote good will between our two cities. Burnaby's last visit to Kushiro was held in 1998. In the intervening eight years Kushiro Councils have twice visited Burnaby, most notably during our Year 2000 celebrations and again in 2005 when Burnaby undertook to recognize the work of the City of Kushiro in wetland development and saving the Tancho Crane from extinction through the development of a new and innovative breeding program.

Copy City Manager
Director Finance

To: Council Members
From: Mayor D. R. Corrigan
Re: INVITATION FROM SISTER CITY, KUSHIRO,
JAPAN

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In keeping with protocol established over the past 40 years the City of Kushiro has now sent an official invitation to Burnaby Council to participate in the events associated with their annual Port Festival. Understanding that the past two visits have been from Kushiro to Burnaby it would be appropriate for Council, in the spirit of the Sister City relationship, to accept this gracious invitation.

In 2005 the City of Kushiro sent to Burnaby, a Kushiro staff person to learn about the art of creating and maintaining eco-sculptures. During this time two Burnaby citizens, Mr. Stan Fukawa and Mrs. Masako Fukawa assisted the Kushiro staff with translation services and hosted her in their home. Later, during the Kushiro visit to Burnaby Mr. and Mrs. Fukawa assisted City staff in hosting the Sister City delegates and provided liaison services with the Nikkei Center. I would therefore recommend that Mr. and Mrs. Fukawa join the delegation to Kushiro.

Given the focus of the visit to Kushiro will include the unveiling of their own eco-sculpture it would be appropriate for the Chair of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to be present for this event. In addition, in 2005 the City of Kushiro included representatives of their School system in their delegation and the visit in 2006 will present an opportunity for the Chair of the Burnaby School Board to continue discussions and the sharing of information that began in 2005.

As Council is aware, part of the protocol surrounding the Sister City relationship is the presentation of a gift to the Host City in recognition of their kind hospitality. To this end I am proposing that the City of Burnaby host a small reception in Kushiro to thank our hosts and present the City of Kushiro with the gift of a commissioned artwork by Artist Barbara Woods that is representative of our City, its history and its place as one of the most attractive and scenic cities in British Columbia. It would be appropriate for Ms. Woods to accompany the delegation for the presentation of her artwork to the City of Kushiro.

I am recommending Council include in the delegation the translation services provided by Ms. Etsuko Yamouchi. Ms Yamanouchi was invaluable as a translator during the recent visit by Kushiro delegates to Burnaby and I know she will provide the same invaluable service during the visit to Kushiro.

Finally, in order to facilitate travel arrangements for our delegation I am recommending Council engage the services of Mr. Yoshin Tamaki of Iwata Travel Services for the duration of the visit. Mr. Tamaki is bilingual and has many years of experience guiding groups throughout Japan.

Respectfully submitted,


Derek R. Corrigan,
Mayor