

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 30, 2009

Item 1, Report No. 2, of the Economic Development Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 30, 2009.

1 TRAVEL TO BAGUIO CITY, PHILIPPINES

The Economic Development Committee recommends:

- 1) That given the current economic downturn, the Economic Development Committee does not approve travel to Baguio City, the Philippines, by any member of Council unless paid for out of the member's own pocket, rather than from the member's budget or the Corporate Council budget;
- 2) That the City provide the materials requested and that members of the Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan (FCAV) be asked to assist in the distribution of materials; and
- 3) That the following report of Mayor Jackson, dated June 22, 2009, be received.

Recommendation

The Mayor recommends:

THAT the Economic Development Committee approve travel to Baguio City, Philippines for the period of August 28 to September 10, 2009.

Contribution to Sustainability

Not applicable

Economic Impact

Should the Economic Development Committee approve travel to Baguio City, the only costs incurred by the Council Members' Operating Budget will be airfare and incidentals. Baguio City will provide ground transportation and two hotel rooms within Baguio. The Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan (FCAV) will cover meals and additional accommodations.

Communications Plan

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

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for travel to Baguio City in celebration of our Friendship City's Centenary.

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 FCAV, Vaughan has maintained an active friendship relationship including: a student visit from Baguio, product displays in the Vaughan Civic Centre, and in 2007, an official delegation from Baguio City to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our friendship.

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A letter was received from Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. inviting the Mayor to travel to Baguio City to celebrate its 100th year as a Chartered City and to participate in the Sister Cities and Town Twinning Summit (see Attachment 1). September 1st is the anniversary, however the proposed travel dates are from August 28 to September 10, 2009.

Baguio City and FCAV has invited the Mayor and Regional Councillor Gino Rosati to participate along with four members of FCAV. Baguio City has indicated that they will cover the costs for ground transportation and two hotel rooms within Baguio. FCAV will cover all costs associated with their travel as well as accommodations and meals for the two Vaughan delegates outside Baguio.

The Summit, with the theme of "Fostering a Culture of Oneness" will promote friendship and goodwill through an understanding of the achievements and experiences of the international partnership program. The Summit's activities will include an inauguration of the Global Garden, sister city exhibits and the signing of the Baguio Centennial Declaration. There will also be a forum discussing issues such as environment, tourism and sustainable development.

If the City of Vaughan participates, it will be allocated an exhibit booth at the Summit. As well, we have been asked to contribute plant seeds to the Global Garden. An invitation and itinerary (Attachment 2) have been forwarded by FCAV.

Based on the proposed itinerary, the delegation will participate in business visits and meetings with the Baguio Chamber of Commerce and Baguio Economic Development Agency. FCAV is a member of the Canada-Philippine Business Council and will be facilitating meetings with the Canadian Ambassador in Manila and other business representatives.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set out by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

Attendance at the Baguio Centenary Celebration would be a positive relationship building exercise which also allows for the opportunity for economic, social and cultural exchanges between Baguio City and Vaughan.

Attachments

1. Letter of Invitation from Baguio City.
2. Letter of Invitation and Itinerary from Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan.

Report prepared by:

Mayor Linda Jackson

(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.)

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Item 2, Report No. 2, of the Economic Development Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 30, 2009.

2 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, BUSINESS MISSIONS AND TRAVEL POLICY

The Economic Development Committee recommends:

- 1) That staff be directed to:**
 - (1) review selected GTA comparators to determine best practices in respect of International Partnerships, Business Missions and Travel Policy (IPBMTP); and**
 - (2) review any guidelines/policies available from the Province of Ontario in respect of these matters;**

- 2) That the current International Partnerships be incorporated into and inform the SWOTs analysis of the Employment Sectors Strategy; and**

- 3) That the verbal report of the Manager of Economic Development, be received.**