

Finance, Administration and Audit Committee Report

DATE: Monday, February 04, 2019

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: TAIPEI 2019 SMART CITY SUMMIT AND EXPO

FROM:

Tim Simmonds, Interim City Manager

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

The City has been invited to participate in the Smart City Summit and Expo in Taipei, Taiwan, taking place from March 26 – 29, 2019. This Report recommends that the City accept the invitation and attend the event.

Report Highlights

- Smart City has been identified as a strategic City Building priority of the City of Vaughan.
- In 2018, Council adopted the findings and recommendations of the Mayor's Smart City Advisory Task Force, that included leaders from industry, academia, government and NGO's.
- The 2019 Smart City Summit and Expo will be held from March 26 through March 29, 2019, at the Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center, Taiwan.
- The City received an official invitation to attend the Summit that includes funding.
- Participation in the Summit presents an opportunity to explore and learn international best practices in Smart City development and promote the Vaughan brand on the world stage through targeted industry and government meetings.
- This information will be used to inform the City of Vaughan Smart City Business Plan for this term of Council.
- Participation at this event is partially offset by external funding, and the balance can be funded by the existing operating budget of the Economic and Cultural Development Department.

Recommendations

1. That, a formal invitation to the City of Vaughan from the organizers of the Smart City Summit and Expo 2019 to attend their business event between March 26-29, 2019 in Taipei, Taiwan, that includes one complimentary flight, and accommodations for up to four city government officers, be approved; and
2. That, the Vice Chair of the Smart City Advisory Task Force, Councillor Yeung-Racco, and one (1) Economic and Cultural Development staff member attend the Smart City Summit and Expo, March 26-29, 2019 in Taipei, Taiwan, and the related expenditures be funded from the 2019 Economic and Cultural Development operating budget; and
3. That, a Smart City advisor be contracted for the purposes of serving as a strategic business development consultant supporting the City's participation in the 2019 Smart City Summit and Expo in Taipei, and the related expenditures be funded from the 2019 Economic and Cultural Development operating budget; and
4. That, a post-mission report be prepared for the consideration of the Smart City Advisory Task Force at a future meeting.

Background

The Smart City Summit and Expo (SCSE) in Taipei is recognized widely as one of the largest smart city platforms in the world. In 2018, just under 31,000 visitors from 50 countries attended the event that featured 1050 booths and 350 speakers.

The 2019 SCSE will be held from March 26 through March 29, 2019, at the Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center by the Taiwan Smart City Solution Alliance. Established in 2014, the SCSE is jointly organized by Taipei City Government, Taiwan Smart City Solutions Alliance, and the Taipei Computer Association.

The Mayor, Chair of the Smart City Advisory Task Force, received an invitation from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Toronto to participate in the Summit and that invitation has been extended to the Vice Chair of the Smart City Advisory Task Force.

The SCSE is both a B2B platform for the Taiwan ICT industry to present their Smart City solutions, and the biggest IoT application exhibition in Asia. In addition to the exhibition, several sessions are organized around themes including "The City as a Living Lab", "Green Economy Growth", and "Case Studies in Smart City Construction"

that feature City leaders and executives from all over the world exchanging their experience and best practices in Smart City development.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Smart City Advisory Task Force Update and Recommendations Committee of the Whole Report, September 17, 2018.](#)

Analysis and Options

In 2016, the Mayor requested that Staff create a Smart City Advisory Task Force (SCATF) to foster a vision and strategy for Vaughan based on the needs of its citizens (Report no. 2 of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Sub-Committee for consideration by the Committee of the Whole, May 31, 2016). Since then, a Smart City Advisory Task Force was established, Chaired by Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Vice-Chaired by Councillor Sandra Yeung-Racco. The SCATF provided a set of high-level recommendations.

Council adopted these recommendations as set forth in the *Smart City Advisory Task Force Update and Recommendations Committee of the Whole Report, September 17, 2018.*

The recommendations include, that:

1. City of Vaughan recognize and incorporate Smart City as a priority in the 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Map;
2. Smart City citizen engagement plan be developed;
3. Council continue the Smart City Advisory Task Force for the next term of Council and that Economic and Cultural Development staff work with the Office of the City Clerk to undertake the process in 2019;
4. Economic and Cultural Development Department be identified in the Corporation's Organizational Structure as the Secretariat Office for a corporate-wide Smart City Strategy, Program and Initiatives;
5. Staff in Economic and Cultural Development prepare a multi-year Smart City business plan, including a strategic roadmap, a governance model, terms of reference, and budget for inclusion in the 2019 Budget process.

As per recommendation 5, the SCATF specifically indicated it would be useful to:
Identify best practices from cities around the world that have implemented successful Smart City initiatives to solve challenges based on citizen priorities.

Participation in SCSE 2019 can, therefore, assist the Vice Chair of SCATF and Economic and Cultural Development staff fulfill the City's commitment to learning

from the experiences of international leaders in the development of Smart Cities and applying this knowledge to Vaughan.

Participation in SCSE is also an opportunity to market and promote the City on an international stage and explore business development opportunities.

The services of a GTA-based Smart City Consultant will be enlisted to support business development meetings and targeted introductions to industry and government contacts during the Summit.

Participation in the Summit and Expo alongside planned promotion and business development meetings ensures the City capitalizes on opportunities for learning and exposure from its attendance at this event.

About the Organizers

The Taipei Computer Association (TCA), established in 1974, is a leading industrial organization in Taiwan. Its 4,000 members are engaged in various fields such as software, hardware, semiconductors and components, manufacturing, sales, and network communication services, thereby generating over 80% of the total production value of Taiwan's Information Communication Technology (ICT). TCA offices are located in Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung in addition to overseas offices in China, Japan and India.

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO), Toronto, was established in 1993 with a mandate to promote exchange and cooperation between Taiwan and Canada within its jurisdiction over Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. It also provides consular services, such as passport and visa issuance as well as document authentication, to foreigners and Taiwan nationals.

Financial Impact

The invitation issued to the Vice Chair of the SCATF by TECO to attend the SCSE is funded by the organizers of the Summit and Expo: the Taipei City Government, Taiwan Smart City Solutions Alliance, and the Taipei Computer Association. The invitation includes complimentary roundtrip economy airfare and hotel accommodation for the duration of the conference (Vice Chair, Smart City Task Force). The organizers will also provide hotel accommodation for up to four city government officers. There is no ticket fee to attend the SCSE.

Eligibility of all expenditures are subject to the *Council Member Expense Policy* and *Employee Reimbursement for Business Related Expenditures and Advances Policy*.

The tables below summarize projected, eligible expenditures, as per the guidance of Corporate policies.

Vice Chair, SCATF:

Item	Description	Cost (CAD)
Roundtrip economy airfare to Taipei	Depart March 24; Return March 30	Complimentary
Hotel accommodation	March 25 – March 30 (5 nights)	Complimentary
Per diem	\$166 per day on Summit days	4 x \$166 = \$664
		Est. Total: \$664

1x Economic and Cultural Development staff:

Item	Description	Cost (CAD)
Roundtrip economy airfare to Taipei	Depart March 24; Return March 30	\$1874
Hotel accommodation	March 25 – March 30 (5 nights)	Complimentary
Per diem	\$166 per day on Summit days	4 x \$166 = \$664
Ground travel	Taxi to/from airport to hotel; travel to Summit	\$200
		Est. Total: \$2,738

The grand total for the Vice Chair of the SCATF and one staff member to participate in SCSE is \$3,402. In addition, a \$5,000 retainer will be set aside for a Smart City Consultant to support the City’s attendance at the SCSE. The retainer includes professional advisory services, and disbursements (such as the cost of the Consultant’s airfare to Taipei).

Participation in SCSE and the services of the Smart City Consultant will be funded through an existing and approved Economic and Cultural Development budget.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

York Region is an important partner for the City of Vaughan in its Smart City strategy and implementation. Vaughan’s Smart City development also aligns with York Region Broadband strategy to improve connectivity infrastructure. The York Region Broadband Strategy report was adopted by Regional Council on May 15, 2014, which provided recommendations for improving access to high-speed Internet connectivity for businesses and institutions and citizens throughout York Region.

Smart City initiatives, including exploratory and business development missions such as Vaughan's participation in SCSE, enhance the profile of the Region. Furthermore, York Region communities, such as Markham and Richmond Hill, are also engaging in Smart City developments. A Smart City approach is focused on collaboration and connectivity, and therefore the benefits of Smart City initiatives in one municipality will extend to other citizens within York Region.

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan has been given an exceptional opportunity to learn about international Smart City building initiatives first-hand, and connect to industry leaders and government representatives well-versed in Smart City development, through this invitation by TECO to attend Taipei's Smart City Summit and Expo: one of the largest Smart City platforms in the world.

Participation in SCSE is an important preliminary step in fulfilling the Council-approved mandate set out by the Smart City Advisory Task Force to explore international best practices as the City gears up to establish a Smart City Office. At the same time, together with the Smart City Consultant, Economic and Cultural Development staff have an opportunity to market and promote Vaughan in business development meetings with the goal of promoting international investment in Vaughan.

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