



**MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE
YORK ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE**

Minutes

Meeting No. 3

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Members

Stephen Lusk, Chair
Taleen Der Haroutiounian
Frankie Ip
Adam Keung
Bill Pickering
Ardy Reid
Alina Tarbhai
Jenny Tung
Ken Wightman

Guest

Helena Grdadolnik, Consultant

Staff

Niamh O'Laoghaire, Manager, Varley Art Gallery
Yan Wu, Public Art Coordinator
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

REGRETS

Rahul Shastri
Julie Tiefenbach
Councillor Alan Ho
Stephen Chait, Director of Economic Growth,
Culture and Entrepreneurship

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:03 pm with Stephen Lusk presiding as Chair. He welcomed Helena Grdadolnik and introductions were made.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None was declared.

3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON JUNE 6, 2018

It was

Moved by Ken Wightman
Seconded by Taleen Der Haroutiounian

That the minutes of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting held on June 6, 2018 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was advised that an update on the Aaniin Community Centre would be provided as part of the Public Art Updates.

6. PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

Niamh O’Laoghaire introduced Helena Grdadolnik of Workshop Architecture Inc. as the successful candidate of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for a consultant to develop a Public Art Master Plan. Ms. Grdadolnik presented information about Workshop Architecture Inc. which has experience developing public art master plans and programs for a variety of Canadian cities. Ms. Grdadolnik presented her experience in public art management, planning, urban design and architecture and advised she will serve as the project lead. Other team members have experience in cultural planning, research, and public and external consultations.

Ms. Grdadolnik spoke of the vision for the Public Art Master Plan including the definition of public art, defining the process for site specific works, creating strategies for different ways to work with artists, and contributing to city-building places. Rather than just specifying locations of public art, the Public Art Master Plan could engage artworks that are interactive and temporary/seasonal, digital or high tech, and could have a positive impact for the city. There could be creative approaches to funding public art including sharing budgets across departments to include public art, creating a work to address a local issue, and partnerships with donors and developers for the benefit of all.

Ms. Grdadolnik referenced a chart showing the mandate and activities of Public Art Committees across Canada and led Committee members in a discussion of the role of the committee and their reasons for joining. Committee members advised that they felt the current role of the Committee is advisory in nature and that, since it has more involvement of residents than many other Markham committees, it shares the voice of Markham residents. The Committee expressed hope that the updated Public Art Master Plan would provide clear direction about the role of the MPAAC, a model for governance, why funding for public art is important, and the need to remain current. It is hoped that the Committee’s role would be to inform Markham Council and to act as a “sober second thought”. The Committee felt that understanding the budget for public art was important; it was noted that the master plan would be focusing on the development of the public art program for the next five years which

will include the recommendations for according funding strategies. It was suggested that the membership of future committees include practicing artists, staff who have been practicing artists, and youth.

Ms. Grdadolnik left the meeting at 7:50 pm.

7. PUBLIC ART UPDATES

Niamh O’Laoghaire and Yan Wu reported on the following public art projects:

Benjamin Thorne

This project has been completed; the unveiling took place on September 16, 2018.

Aaniin Community Centre

Construction of the large top has stalled due to problems in sourcing a manufacturer for a light fixture required for the project. It was advised that the City of Markham is taking action to advance the project.

Downtown Markham Public Art Installation

It was reported that the geotechnical survey has been completed. The poor quality of the soil has added unforeseen costs to the project; these will be shared by the artist and the City of Markham. A tentative land transfer agreement has been reached between the City and the developer regarding the additional piece of land the City requires from the developer to install the work.. It is hoped that installation will take place in spring 2019.

Rizal Statue

It was reported that the sod turning ceremony, that took place on June 10, Filipino Independence Day, at Boxgrove Community Park, the site for the statue of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, went well. Installation of the statue is scheduled for Filipino Independence Day 2019.

The City’s Public Art Collection (2-dimensional works)

Yan Wu reported that she will arrange a tour of artwork from the existing public art collection for Committee members, at a future meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Frankie Ip advised that he will be resigning from the Committee because he will be moving from Markham. On behalf of the Committee, Chair Steven Lusk thanked Frankie for his dedication to Markham’s Public Art issues and Committee efforts in the last few years.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Public Art Advisory Committee will be held on January 30, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Bill Pickering
Seconded by Ken Wightman

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:05 pm.

CARRIED