



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

**Minutes**

**Meeting No. 1**

**Thursday, April 11, 2019**

**6:00 p.m.**

---

**PRESENT**

Members

Taleen Der Haroutiounian  
Bill Pickering  
Ardy Reid  
Alina Tarbhai  
Julie Tiefenbach  
Jenny Tung  
Ken Wightman

Guest

Helena Grdadolnik, Consultant

Staff

Stephen Chait, Director of Economic Growth,  
Culture and Entrepreneurship  
Niamh O’Laoghaire, Manager, Varley Art Gallery  
Yan Wu, Public Art Coordinator  
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

**REGRETS**

Stephen Lusk, Chair  
Adam Keung  
Rahul Shastri  
Councillor Alan Ho

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:06 pm with Taleen Der Haroutiounian presiding as Chair.

**2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None was declared.

**3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

The Committee agreed to have the items “Public Art Updates” and “New Business” considered before agenda item “Public Art Master Plan” presentation; the agenda was accepted as amended.

**4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON OCTOBER 10, 2018**

It was

Moved by           Bill Pickering  
Seconded by       Ken Wightman

That the minutes of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting held on October 10, 2018 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None was reported.

**6. PUBLIC ART UPDATES**

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

Aaniin Community Centre

An agreement has been completed with the manufacturer regarding construction of the large top; installation is anticipated for fall 2019.

Downtown Markham Public Art Installation

It was reported that negotiations are continuing in order to conclude a land transfer agreement 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 fall 2019.

Rizal Statue

It was reported that installation will take place very soon at Boxgrove Community Park, the site for the statue of Dr. Jose P. Rizal. The official unveiling of the statue is scheduled as part of a larger celebration for the Filipino community to celebrate Filipino Independence Day on June 9, 2019.

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

Yan Wu advised that a tour of artwork from the existing public art collection would likely require ninety minutes; she will include a tour on the agenda of a future meeting, time permitting.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Niamh O’Laoghaire, Manager, Varley Art Gallery, advised that there would be an open house at the Varley Art Gallery on Sunday, April 14, 2019 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

## **8. PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN**

Helena Grdadolnik, the successful candidate of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for a consultant to develop a Public Art Master Plan, presented a draft public art master plan.

Ms. Grdadolnik spoke of feedback obtained about a proposed vision and potential sites for public art in Markham through meetings with internal and stakeholders, the steering committee, this committee, senior staff, Mayor Scarpitti and Markham Council, and a public workshop held recently in March 2019. It was determined that public art: is a site-specific work, in a public space, created by an artist/arts group, and follows the city process. She suggested that public art should make a mark and showed examples of public art which identifies the city where it is located; public art in Markham should likewise identify Markham.

From the feedback received from the various stakeholders, a draft vision was developed as: public art will mark the city as a place where local residents and visitors engage with each other and with the built and natural environments in Markham. Draft objectives for public art will connect and inspire residents, strengthen Markham's brand, and celebrate diverse cultures, heritage and shared values. Funding might be derived from a Public Art Reserve, Markham investment, and through a portion of capital projects budgets. For comparison purposes, Ms. Grdadolnik displayed a chart showing a number of Ontario municipalities, the City budget for public art and the amount from private development contributions. She spoke of the draft governance proposed outline as well as the roles for Markham Council, this Committee, and Art Selection panels. Ms. Grdadolnik discussed potential public art sites classified in the following five categories:

- Key Civic Sites and Gateways
- Major Parks and Facilities Projects
- Community Parks and Trails
- Streetscapes and Transit Sites
- Major Urban Development Sites

Ms. Grdadolnik then led Committee members in a discussion of:

- The draft vision and objectives
- Potential funding mechanisms
- Governance and the role of the committee, and
- Public art sites and approach.

Committee members advised that they felt the Public Art Master Plan should be aspirational, action-oriented, and speak of the quality expected of the art, e.g. excellent and distinctive to Markham focusing on diversity, natural touches, and elements of a city and a town as well as both established and newer communities. Committee members discussed at length the aspect of diversity; it was agreed that diversity needs to be reflected in the master plan but there should also be a balance between diversity and natural history.

Stephen Chait left the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Committee members discussed funding methods and the need for annual operating costs to be declared. It was noted that there is a large amount in the public art reserve, some of which must be dedicated to certain areas of the City. It was also noted that the Public Art Master Plan will indicate staffing and other resources needed for the public art program. In response to questions from Committee members about the approval process for projects and donations, Committee members were advised that the Public Art Master Plan would outline the public art program for a five year period including the objectives, the practices to be followed for acquisitions, and the funding strategies. It was thought that this approach would free the Committee to focus on reviewing public art policies and plans, providing feedback on proposed budgets and expenditures as well as providing advice to staff regarding reports to Council (including about acquisitions and donations), and feedback on a quarterly basis, and to advocate for public art programs with Council and citizens. In response to questions from Committee members about participation on Art Selection panels, it was thought that one or two Committee members could attend as observers. They were also advised that Public Realm, Public Art and the Markham Development Services department operate as an inter-departmental group bringing together the strengths of each area for the benefit of Markham. Committee members recommended that Committee membership include a Regional Councillor, in addition to a Markham Councillor.

Ms. Grdadolnik advised that the presentation would be emailed to Committee members so that they could give it more consideration and send her further thoughts and ideas.

Addendum:

Yan Wu sent the draft presentation to Committee members and requested they provide feedback via email to her (particularly on the sites, categories and art approaches for each site) by the end of the day Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Public Art Advisory Committee will be held at the call of the Chair.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by           Ken Wightman

Seconded by       Jenny Tung

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:15 pm.

CARRIED