



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

**Minutes**

**Meeting No. 1**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2020**

**6:00 p.m.**

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**PRESENT**

Members

Taleen Der Haroutiounian  
Dawn Kay  
Adam Keung  
Bill Pickering  
Ardy Reid  
Angelo Serrentino  
Julie Tiefenbach  
Ken Wightman  
Councillor Reid McAlpine

Guests

Christina Kakaflikas, Acting Director,  
Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship  
Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services  
Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer

Staff

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

**REGRETS**

Stephen Lusk, Chair  
Rahul Shastri  
Jenny Tung  
Stephen Chait, Director of Economic Growth,  
Culture and Entrepreneurship

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05 pm with Taleen Der Haroutiounian presiding as Chair. Angelo Serrentino was welcomed as a new member to the Committee and introductions were made.

**2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None was declared.

**3. REMEMBERING ALINA TARBHAI**

Niamh O’Laoghaire, Manager, Varley Art Gallery, advised that the City of Markham was deeply saddened by the Ukrainian Airlines crash which claimed 176 lives on January 8, 2020 since many in the Markham and York Region community were affected by the tragedy. She noted that the Committee particularly regrets the tragic loss of Alina Tarbhai, a member of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee (MPAAC) and her mother Afifa Tarbhai who were both on flight PS752. Alina was one of the longest serving and most enthusiastic members of the MPAAC, having joined in 2008, when she was still a teenager. She was also a former employee of the Markham Public Library (MPL). MPL Director Catherine Biss had noted that “Alina was a page at Angus Glen Library from 2005 to 2016. She was a hard-working and well-liked member of the Angus Glen team who is remembered for her many service improvement ideas and for her passion for Harry Potter.” Members of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee held a minute of silence in memory of Alina Tarbhai. Niamh O’Laoghaire encouraged Committee members to consider signing the books of condolence, located in the Great Hall of the Markham Civic Centre, for the four Markham residents including Alina and her mother Afifa, who perished in the crash.

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

The agenda was accepted as distributed with one change: it was agreed to consider Public Art Updates prior to the Public Art Master Plan Update.

**5. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**

It was

Moved by Adam Keung  
Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine

That the minutes of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting held on September 25, 2019, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None was reported.

**7. PUBLIC ART UPDATES**

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

Aaniin Community Centre

Yan Wu advised that all parts have arrived for construction of the tops for the Top Garden. The artists and fabricator plan to construct and install only one top at first, in order to ensure it works properly. The goal is to have all eight tops constructed and installed by summer 2020.

#### Downtown Markham Public Art Installation

It was reported that the project has been on hold due to negotiations relating to the transfer of the additional piece of land the City requires from the developer to install the work. This negotiation between the City and Remington had been handled by Richard Kendall, Manager of Development Central District, who retired recently. The impact of Bill 108 also stalled project. Public art staff will connect with Stephen Leu, Richard Kendall's replacement to resume the negotiation process. The work has already been fabricated and is in storage awaiting installation.

#### Henderson Street Bridge Mural

In 2013, five emerging York Region artists were selected by the F. H. Varley Art Gallery staff and City of Markham to paint a mural on the CN Bridge intersecting Henderson Street and Proctor Avenue in order to enhance the City of Markham's outdoor space. It was reported that one of the mural panels has fallen off the bridge and because the panel is now beyond repair it will be repainted. The mural as a whole will be maintained for another three years, the remaining balance of the ten-year (up to fifteen depending on the condition at the time) life span of the mural. Planning for replacement public art will take place before that time including ensuring that the local community understands why the mural will need to be replaced.

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

Niamh O'Laoghaire reported that the draft Public Art Master Plan was presented to Council who commended it and the amount of work that had gone into its development. The Public Art Master Plan was approved and the Implementation plan was approved in principle; however, Staff were asked to report back to the Development Services Committee with a revised governance model and recommendations.

The Committee reviewed and discussed an updated report for the Development Services Committee. It was reported that a cross-Canada survey of best practices for governance has been developed as well as information showing how the approval process would work by using the Pan Am Centre project as a test case.

Committee discussion recommended that

- MPAAC may wish to reconsider the prioritization of potential sites and opportunities for new public art projects in Markham so they are in line with the City's development plans balanced with prioritization of areas that do not have public art investment;
- As part of its role, the Committee should provide an annual update;
- Proposed public art projects should be first submitted to MPAAC;
- Regarding Governance processes, the desire is to remain flexible while keeping in mind Markham's procurement directives and best practices;
- MPAAC and the City could obtain feedback from residents e.g. polls using social media; this could also increase engagement levels.

Yan Wu advised that the updated report would be sent to Committee members so that they could provide additional feedback by early February. The Committee would then be asked to endorse the final draft of the report which would be presented at the February 24, 2020

Development Services Committee meeting. It is hoped that many MPAAC members might be able to attend the meeting to show support for the Public Art Master Plan.

Addendum:

On February 3, 2020, Niamh O’Laoghaire distributed a revised staff report regarding the Markham Public Art Implementation Plan, which will serve as a roadmap for Markham to achieve a visionary and innovative Public Art Program and Collection. The plan was updated subsequent to the MPAAC meeting of January 22, 2020 to reflect MPAAC members’ comments at that time.

Staff have recommended proceeding in a way that allows the City to adhere to best practices in the field of Public Art while also accommodating greater Council input into historic and commemorative installations, including final approval of the project. A chart, outlining a sample step-by-step selection process, was provided to demonstrate how the governance models and public engagement processes would work for each of A) public art, B) public installation for historic/commemorative purposes and C) donations of public art. The Pan Am Centre was used as the test case for a major public art project.

Committee members expressed support for the report entitled “Markham’s Public Art Implementation Plan 2020-2024, January 2020”. The following motion and vote took were conducted by email and telephone.

It was

Moved by           Councillor Reid McAlpine  
Seconded by       Stephen Lusk

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee endorse to Markham Council the updated report entitled “Markham’s Public Art Implementation Plan 2020-2024, January 2020”, as presented.

CARRIED

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

Yan Wu advised that a three-day Public Art Summit is being planned for June 2020. It is hoped to attract artists, fabricators, planners, and architects. It was suggested that Provincial staff also be invited.

## **10. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Public Art Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 pm on Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by           Adam Keung  
Seconded by       Dawn Kay

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee adjourn at 7:15 pm.

CARRIED