

Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham

Minutes

February 15, 2023

5:00 PM

Attendance

Board of Directors Present: Jim Schmidt (Chair), Amin Giga (Treasurer), Carolyn Le Quéré, ,
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Craig McOuat

Members Present: Connie Leclair, Arpita Surana, Bonnie Leung, Nik Mracic, Al Pickard, Emily Li

Staff Present: Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery; Francesca Dauphinais, Cultural
Development Officer, Varley Art Gallery, Hristina Giantsopoulos, Clerk

Regrets:, Chris Rickett, Director of Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship,
Lisa Joy-Facey, Carrie Colangelo John Ingram

Item	Discussion
1. Call to Order	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting convened at 5:14 PM with Jim Schmidt presiding as Chair.
2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest	There were none disclosed.
3. Approval of Minutes	Moved By Craig McOuat Seconded By Connie Leclair That the minutes of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting held on January 16, 2023 be confirmed. Carried
4. Business Arising From The Minutes	There were no business items regarding the previous minutes.
5. Appointment of Board Positions	The Foundation discussed the establishment of a Fund Raising Committee and suggested that Al Pickard, be appointed the Chair. It was expressed that there be clear direction on the objectives, functions and overall fundraising direction moving forward with this committee and that it will act to provide supplemental income to the endowment and current financing of the VAG to be prepared to action significant acquisitions in the future. The Foundation discussed networking opportunities within its membership to promote events and exhibits.

There was additional discussion in relation to board structure, functions, the expansion of art acquisitions and fundraising and that additional sub-committees would be identified at upcoming meetings to assist in these regards. The Foundation suggested that an updated MOU would be helpful in defining various staff and member functions and that there be consideration to adopt a similar model to that of Markham Stouffville Hospital. It was noted that subcommittees have been successful to assist with VAG initiatives.

Further to the approval of the new members to the VAG by Markham City Council at the Annual General Meeting on February 8, 2023, the Foundation proceeded with the following appointments:

Moved By Amin Giga

Seconded By Nik Mracic

1. That a Fundraising Sub-Committee be established; and,
2. That Al Pickard, be named as the Chair of the Fundraising Sub-Committee; and further,
3. That Board Members form part of the Fundraising Sub-Committee.

Carried

Moved By Al Pickard,

Seconded By Craig McOuat

That Jim Schmidt be appointed as Chair of the Varley Art Gallery.

Carried

Moved By Arpita Surana

Seconded By Nik Mracic

That Craig McOuat be appointed as Vice-chair of the Varley Art Gallery.

Carried

Moved By Emily Li

Seconded By Connie Leclair

That Amin Giga be appointed as Treasurer of the Varley Art Gallery.

Carried

Moved By Reid McAlpine

Seconded By Arpita Surana

That Al Pickard, be appointed as Secretary of the Varley Art Gallery.

Carried

6. Director's Report	<p>Niamh O'Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery, welcomed all Members and provided an overview of the current capital projects underway, exhibitions and public education programs. She noted that the summer camp programs were already over 99% of capacity and that they are the primary revenue source for the VAG. She also provided an update on the Canada Summer Jobs, Young Canada Works, Community Services Recovery Fund and the Ontario Arts Council grants that will assist in securing the required resources to operate the gallery and programs.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion on the expansion to other locations to facilitate additional programming over the summer.</p>
7. Development Officer Report	<p>Francesca Dauphinais, Cultural Development Officer, provided a brief update on the current grant applications in progress and that an application to the Community Services Recovery fund has been reviewed by Chris Rickett, Director of Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship and Niamh O'Laoghaire and that it will be submitted on February 17, 2023. This fund will provide for gallery sustainability and a customer relationship management system, in addition to the expansion of the gallery website for marketing opportunities. She also advised that the March Break camps are scheduled and have at least two volunteers assisting each camp. Volunteer recruitment will begin in March/April for the summer camps.</p> <p>The Foundation discussed ways that the community can learn about programming and that there be consideration to gear new programs to specific audiences such as, new moms.</p>
8. Sub-Committee Report	<p><u>Fundraising Committee</u></p> <p>Al Pickard, advised that a fundraising letter draft will be circulated to Members for review and comments. This will be used to solicit donations in the coming months as a strategy and objectives are established.</p> <p>The Foundation discussed the use of a sign-in sheet for visitors and due diligence activities surrounding its use. It was suggested that Members visit other galleries to observe their operations, exhibits and how they obtain visitor information for future use.</p> <p>There were no updates regarding the following sub-committees:</p> <p><u>Rouge: Varley Gala</u></p> <p><u>Art Acquisitions Committee</u></p> <p><u>Vintages at the Varley</u></p> <p><u>Development Committee</u></p>
9. Financial Report	<p>Amin Giga, Treasurer, presented the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances as of December 31, 2022 and advised that it will be audited. He</p>

	<p>confirmed that the City made a \$40,000 contribution for 2022 and noted its significance to the strong relationship with the City.</p> <p>Ms. Leclair congratulated the Foundation on the reduction of the deficit and looks forward to improvements to the VAG's financial position in 2023.</p> <p>The Foundation discussed the importance of fundraising and generation of revenue especially in light of the negative financial impact Bill 23 has on municipalities.</p> <p>Moved By Emily Li Seconded By Connie Leclair</p> <p>That the December 2022 Financial Report presented by Amin Giga be received.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>
10. New Business	There was no new business.
11. Future Meeting Dates	<p>The next meeting of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on March 13, 2023.</p> <p>Future Foundation meetings will take place on the second Monday of each month (subject to a break over summer months and holidays in December) and begin at 6:00 PM and run until 8:00 PM.</p>
12. Adjournment	<p>That the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting adjourn at 7:10 PM.</p> <p>Moved By Arpita Surana Seconded By Emily Li</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>