



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

Minutes

Meeting No. 3

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Members

Stephen Lusk, Chair
Paul Cosburn
Taleen Der Haroutiounian
Frankie Ip
Adam Keung
Rahul Shastri
Alina Tarbhai
Jenny Tung
Ken Wightman

Council

Councillor Alan Ho

Staff

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

REGRETS

Julie Tiefenbach
Stephen Chait,
Director Culture and Economic Development

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05 pm with Taleen Der Haroutiounian presiding as Chair.

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 MEETING HELD ON APRIL 12, 2017

It was

Moved by Adam Keung
Seconded by Ken Wightman

That the minutes of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting held on April 12, 2017, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None was reported.

6. COMMITTEE BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Taleen Der Haroutiounian reported that, on May 29, 2017, some Committee members met to discuss ideas for potential art projects and locations for art to be supported by Markham budgeted funds for public art in 2017. The group agreed that it felt that future art projects should focus on murals and contemporary structures, rather than statues, as Markham's public art collection already features many statues. The group discussed the role of existing artwork in the selection of a location and decided to recommend that Council use the entire budget on one piece.

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that funds have been reserved for public art projects in 2017 and that Stephen Chait, Director Culture and Economic Development, will discuss the public art projects at the September meeting. Decisions about the projects will be made by Council in consultation with the Commissioner and Director, and with input from the Committee. Taleen Der Haroutiounian, Jenny Tung and Alina Tarbhai will review the brainstorming notes, develop and refine a proposal, and discuss it with Stephen Chait.

7. YORK UNIVERSITY PUBLIC ART SYMPOSIUM

Stephen Lusk reported that the Going Public art symposium held at York University on May 18-20, 2017 drew attendees from across Canada. He reviewed some of the sessions on topics such as the Artful City, street art, public realm mural projects, and conceptual art. Attendees reported that there are many different funding models for public art; some such as the asset based model emphasize the quantitative aspects e.g. where art is thought to appreciate in value over time, while other funding models focus on qualitative aspects e.g. focusing on the social or cultural capital of a city. It was noted that such symposiums could be an excellent forum for dialogue and panel discussions and to showcase public art programs. Corinna Ghaznavi reported that she attended as a curator and found many questions about what public art should be. There is increasing pressure on artists to create a high quality permanent piece which generates public engagement.

Alina Tarbhai left the meeting at 7:05 pm.

8. PAN AM GRELFIE MURAL

Corinna Ghaznavi reported that installation is complete for the grelfie mural, a community mosaic art piece made up of selfie photos taken with “Find Pachi” posters for the 2015 Pan Am / Parapan Am Games.

9. OTHER PUBLIC ART UPDATES

Corinna Ghaznavi reported on the following public art projects:

Downtown Markham Public Art Installation

Markham Council has approved Jill Anholt’s public art proposal called “Living Light”. The concept for Living Light was based on resilience and innovation of plants, Markham’s history of using natural resources to produce usable energy, and Markham’s commitment to innovation and technology.

Benjamin Thorne

It is expected that installation of the statue will be completed by fall 2017.

Berczy Statue

The statue has been installed. The unveiling will be scheduled to tie in with Canada 150 events in Markham.

Charity Sculpture

Installation of the sculpture is in progress. The unveiling will be scheduled for a date later in the year.

Art Plaques

Corinna Ghaznavi is reviewing sites to determine placement of the plaques.

Website

The website is under development.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- Steve Lusk reported that the Markham Public Realm Committee would like to collaborate with the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee to install public art along the trail system of Rouge National Urban Park.
- Corinna Ghaznavi advised that Stephen Chait would like to attend the next meeting in September to discuss the direction of public art in Markham and to introduce a new Public Art Coordinator but he is unable to attend the Committee’s meetings held on Wednesdays. The committee discussed possible meeting dates and agreed to hold the next meeting on either Thursday September 14 or September 21.
- Corinna Ghaznavi advised that she will be leaving the position of Public Art Coordinator once the City has recruited a replacement.
- Culture Days will be held in September 2017 to encourage the community to appreciate culture. It could also be an opportunity for the committee to showcase ideas which might encourage the community to become involved in public art.
- Doors Open – Committee members wondered whether there might be a way for the Committee to be involved and to highlight Committee activities.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Public Art Advisory Committee will be held on either September 14, 2017 or September 21, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Adam Keung

Seconded by Taleen Der Haroutiounian

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee adjourn at 7:35 pm.

CARRIED