



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

**Minutes**

**Meeting No. 2.**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2016**

**6:00 p.m.**

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**PRESENT**

Members

Julie Tiefenbach

Rahul Shastri

Paul Cosburn

Taleen Der Haroutiounian

Frankie Ip

Stephen Lusk

Alina Tarbhai

Jenny Tung

Ken Wightman

Staff

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator

Moe Hosseini-Ara, Director of Culture

Laura Gold, Committee Coordinator

**REGRETS**

Councillor Alan Ho

Adam Keung

**1. Call to Order**

The Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:08 pm with Stephen Lusk presiding as Chair.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

**3. Changes or Additions to the Agenda**

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the Minutes from the previous meeting

Moved by Jenny Tung

Seconded by Paul Cosburn

That the January 13, 2016, Public Art Advisory Committee Minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

#### **5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

##### Youth Ambassador

The Committee was still waiting for a response from staff regarding adding a Youth Ambassador from the Mayor's Youth Task Force to the Committee. James Ruddle, Head of the Visual Arts Department at Bill Crothers Secondary School has been approached about suggesting a candidate, either from existing students or from former students still active in Markham and the arts.

##### Charity Sculpture

A recommendation is being made by staff to accept the donation of the Charity Sculpture. If Council accepts the donation, all costs including installation of the sculpture will be covered by the donor – Helen Roman-Barber. Staff are working with City's Legal Department to draw up a donation agreement.

##### York University

A Committee Member reported that they heard that the York University Fine Arts Campus may be coming to Markham.

#### **6. Review of Markham 2003 Public Art Framework**

The Committee reviewed highlights from the 2003, Public Art Framework. Staff advised that this document is outdated and is no longer used.

Markham passed its two Public Art Policies in 2012. The City soon after started undertaking public art projects. The City will be reviewing its Private Sector Public Art Policy (2012 CFS 03) due to recent changes in legislation, which no longer permit the City to ask developers to make a 1% voluntary contribution to public art. Staff are meeting with the City's Legal and

Planning Departments to discuss the new legislation and the required changes to the policies. The Committee's role is outlined in these policies.

It was noted that one of the Committee's role is to provide advice to Council on public art being considered for City lands or properties, but Council will make the final decision on the approval of the public art. The Committee can also undertake a project related to public art. The Public Art Advisory Committee reviews and advises Council on all private and municipal public art projects, but as an advisory committee they do not make the final decision on whether the City accepts or rejects a project. All new public art projects go through a selection process as outlined in the Public Art Policy, which includes a final presentation to the Advisory Committee. The committee can then make recommendations, however, unless the project is offensive, inappropriate or not in alliance with Markham's strategic priorities, the committee does not have the power to reject the project once it has been selected through the Public Art Selection Process. The Public Art Advisory Committee does not have the authority to review or reject public artwork being installed on private property.

Staff advised that Council recently approved a Public Realm Policy for the City. The Clerk will circulate the policy to the Committee. Some of the City's recent public realm projects include the bridge on Henderson Avenue, and the wraps that were placed on the traffic control boxes. The Public Realm Committee's focus is more on beautification, but also has components related to and supporting public art.

## **7. Funding for Public Art**

Staff are trying to find a revenue source that would support Markham's Public Art Program now that developers can no longer be approached to make voluntary contributions to public art. Until a funding source is found, public art projects will be reviewed and approved through the budget process.

## **8. Private Sector Contributions to Public Art**

It was noted that although developers can no longer be asked to make voluntary contributions to public art, other private organization can still be approached and asked to sponsor a public art piece.

## **9. Update on Public Art Projects**

### Toogood Pond

The bronze statue of a dog will be installed at Toogood Pond on June 15, 2016.

### William Berzy Commemorative Monument

The William Berzy Commemorative Monument is in storage, but is ready to be installed once construction is complete.

#### South East Community Centre

The public art piece will be installed once the community centre is complete.

#### Cornell Community Centre

The public art at the Cornell Community Centre has been installed. A successful grand opening was held. The City would like to video record the artist inspiration and interpretation of the project to be posted on the website. Both staff and residents have provided positive feedback with respect to the piece.

#### Veteran Square

The Veteran Square project has been approved and the final agreements are in the process of being finalized.

#### Benjamin Thorne

The Benjamin Thorne project has been approved and the final agreements are in the process of being finalized. The monument will be located at the entrance to the Thornhill Community Centre, as Canada 150 did not support it being relocated to Pomona.

### **10. Toronto Beaches Public Art Installation – design competition using public space – drawing it in that way**

The Committee discussed a field trip it took to the Toronto Beaches to visit a temporary public art installation. The public art pieces were completed as part of a design competition and the project was sponsored by the private sector. The project was a good example of the economic benefits public art can bring to an area; people going to see the public art also shop and eat at local stores and restaurants.

The Committee discussed the possibility of doing a similar type of project in Markham.

### **11. Quarry/Barkhouse Sculpture Instagram Contest to Engage Community**

Jenny Tung met with Corinna Ghaznavi, who subsequently met with a representative from the City's Corporate Communications Department regarding the idea to hold a Quarry/Barkhouse Sculpture Instagram Contest. The contest will encourage residents to take pictures with Markham's public art and tag them. The contest will help create excitement and awareness about Markham's public art. The total cost of the project is approximately \$1,000. A prize will be given to the resident with the best picture. The prize can be a \$100 credit to City activities or

a small budget can be assigned to this. Consideration was being given to approach Global Pet as a possible sponsor of the contest. The contest will be promoted through social media, at community centres and libraries, and through other City outlets. The person running the contest ran a similar contest to gain momentum for the Pan Am Games where residents were encouraged to get a picture with Pachi.

## **12. Pan AM Athletes Crothers Students Public Art**

Moe Hosseini-Ara briefly spoke about the Pan Am event recently held at Civic Centre, which exhibited artwork of Markham athletes that competed in the Pan AM Games. The artwork was created by students at the local high school. The total cost of the public art project was about \$1,500, as the city paid for the students' supplies. The artwork will be hung at the Pan Am Centre. The Committee thought this was a great example of a low cost community public art project.

## **13. Markham Nuit Blanche Possibilities**

Alina Tarbhai spoke about Toronto's Nuit Blanche festival. The festival is strictly a Toronto event and Markham cannot participate in the event. The Nuit Blanch Festival Committee suggested that Markham create its own event and provided some tips on how to go about this. It found it challenging to secure funding for the festival.

The Committee briefly discussed how entrances to cities can be public art.

## **14. Art Summit Possibilities**

The Committee discussed the possibility of holding an art summit in Markham. The summit could bring together Markham's existing art community. The Committee decided to create a Sub-Committee to look into the possibility of holding the summit, developing a vision for the proposed summit, and determining who it will engage if it proceeds with the event.

Th Sub-Committee will be comprised of the following Committee Members:

Jenny Tung

Ken Wightman

Alina Tarbhai

Taleen Der Haroutiounian

Stephen Lusk

## **15. Accounting of Current Funding and Regular Updates with a formal Ledger**

Staff advised they will provide regular updates to the Committee with respect public art funding.

## **16. Canada Day 2017**

The Committee discussed the idea of creating a multigenerational public art piece for Canada 150. Staff advised that the City is already funding the Veteran's Square, and the Benjamin Thorne monuments as part of Canada 150. They did not think that Council would support a third project for this event, unless there were private funds for the monument. Any further discussion on the matter was referred to the Sub-Committee.

#### **17. Facebook**

Taleen Der Haroutiounian advised that she set up a personal Facebook Page "Public Art in Markham". The page has 70 likes, 100 twitter followers, and its popularity is gaining momentum. She asked the Committee to share the page with friends and family and to advise her of any items to post on the page. The tag for the page is "Public Art Markham". This tag should not be used for anything else.

It was suggested that when Markham has more public art works that it create an interactive map of the artworks as part of the Markham Public Art Web page

#### **18. New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **19. Next Meeting Date**

The Committee discussed increasing the number of meeting dates or having more sub-committee meetings between meeting dates. The next meeting of the Public Art Advisory Committee will be held on June 15, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

#### **20. Public Art Award**

The Committee requested that staff submit an application for the Public Art Award next year.

#### **21. Adjournment**

The Public Art Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:08 pm.