



MARKHAM PUBLIC REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES December 3, 2015

PRESENT

Members

Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Alex Chiu
Shadi Aghaei
Bruce (Shichun) Chen
Ivan Cheung
Karen Lui

REGRETS

Omar Bhatti
Mavis Fung
Sadiq Pirani
Noel Shippey
Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Catherine Jay, Urban Design

Staff

Brett Lucyk, Public Realm Coordinator
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

1. WELCOME and CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:07 pm with Karen Lui serving as Chair. Introductions of Committee members and staff were made.

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 REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON JUNE 24, 2015

It was

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

THAT the minutes of the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee meeting held on June 24, 2015 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None was identified.

6. UPDATE OF THE PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

Brett Lucyk, Public Realm Coordinator, advised that it has been an eventful year and reviewed the major Public Realm projects:

Traffic Control Boxes

Forge Collective was selected as the artist team for the Traffic Control Boxes art project, which was initiated by the Public Realm Committee and supported by the Public Art program. In Phase II of the project, the artists of Forge Collective mentored students of Unionville High School to submit new wrap designs: a Canada goose and squirrels. There are approximately 100 traffic control boxes in Markham and 38 have had wraps installed in 2015. A wrap to promote heritage will be installed in spring 2016. It was reported that there has been very positive feedback about the wraps.

Henderson Bridge Mural Phase II

In 2013, the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee and the Markham Public Realm Committee partnered for Phase I of this project: presenting art on one side of three sections of the Henderson Bridge wall. In 2015, Phase II was initiated to install art on the east wall of the bridge. James Ruddle, a local high school art teacher, had proposed an image reminiscent of the Group of Seven transitioning into a street urban landscape, representing traditional Markham changing into an urban Markham. Brett Lucyk presented a YouTube time lapse video showing the progress of the project throughout summer 2015. It was reported that there has been very positive feedback from the local community about the completed mural.

Pan Am Centre

It was reported that wraps on eight traffic boxes, as well as street art, were installed around the Pan Am Centre in support of the Pan Am/Para Pan Am Games. Graphic representations of birds, representing the four corners of the world, were installed on the pavement; however there were problems in having the graphics adhere properly to the asphalt in certain areas.

Markham Museum

In 2014, the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee and the Markham Public Realm Committee partnered to locate a sculpture project at the Markham Museum. A general call for art proposals was made and an artwork proposal by kipjones was selected. It featured a 21 foot gambrel barn structure with the structure base representing the “grounded” history of Markham and the upper section representing that Markham is open to the future.

Toogood Pond

In 2013, the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee and the Markham Public Realm Committee partnered to commission a piece to begin a sculpture path. Mary Anne Barkhouse, an indigenous artist whose works are created in bronze and granite, was commissioned for the project. The concept for the work is a granite sculpture in the form of an 18" high 'bench', inspired by designs of formal gardens found at European palaces such as Versailles, positioned on either side of a large natural boulder. Around the boulder would be three bronze dogs (a terrier, a hound and a borzoi) looking up at a bronze squirrel perched on top of the boulder. The work is located in the park at Toogood Pond, visible from Carlton Road. It was reported that there has been very positive feedback about the sculpture.

Unionville Chalk Board

The Giving Tree Group, a social action group for local youth, has submitted a Heritage application to install a schedule/chalk board near the bandshell on Main Street, Unionville. The group propose having it installed from May to October; it plans to maintain supplies of chalk and keep the board clean. The Markham Operations department is working with the group to site the board and to determine content.

Berczy Square Commemorative Monument

A commemorative monument to William Berczy has been placed in a new development at the northeast corner of Kennedy Road and Sixteenth Avenue. William Berczy, in realistic historical dress of his time, is looking over the new development, representing the deep heritage of Markham looking to the continuation of ideas into the future. The height of the statue is approximately 14 feet high and there are concerns that members of the public will want to climb it.

City Plantings

The Markham Operations department has been involved with successful City plantings at Milne Park and Felix Opatowski Park. Councillor Valerie Burke advised that Felix Opatowski Park is named for a Holocaust survivor and the plantings are replacing ash trees removed due to the ash borer disease.

Canada Post

It was reported that Canada Post had conducted a survey among Canadian residents to determine designs for wraps for the Canada Post super-mailboxes, and selected the three most popular designs. Councillor Valerie Burke showed a picture of older mailboxes which have been defaced; it was advised that this matter should be reported to Canada Post.

Speaker Series

It was reported that the Speaker Series was reintroduced; two sessions have been held in 2015 and both were well attended. A third presentation, "Animating the Public Realm – The Tools to Build an 8-80 City" by Emily Monroe of 8-80 Cities, is scheduled for December 8, 2015. The purpose of the Speaker Series presentations is to increase awareness of and interest in Public Realm issues.

2016 Projects

The following projects were identified:

- Commemorative/Memorial Spaces within Markham Parks
- Gateway and Destinations Master Plan
- Vendor box infrastructure review and initial implementation
- Park Shelters- support for installation
- Adopt a Park program
- Parks Renaissance Plan

Committee members were requested to make recommendations for projects.

7. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MANDATE

Brett Lucyk, Public Realm Coordinator, distributed and reviewed the Terms of Reference and Mandate for the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee. He advised that there had been discussion about these in the past but that further discussion had been requested. It was agreed that the material outlining the Terms of Reference and Mandate will be sent to all Committee members so that they can be prepared to discuss them at the next meeting. It was also suggested that a meeting be devoted to reviewing how Markham's Public Realm projects match up to the Terms of Reference and Mandate.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Valerie Burke reported that a number of communications towers belonging to Rogers and Bell Media are in disrepair. Following brief Committee discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Burke will work with Markham staff, who may have contacts at Rogers and/or Bell Media, to correct the situation.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

Committee members discussed preferable meeting days and times, and agreed on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled at 7:00 pm on a Thursday in either the last week of February or the first week of March, with first preference for Thursday March 3, 2016.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Shadi Aghaei

That the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee meeting adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

CARRIED