

**VARLEY MCKAY  
ART FOUNDATION OF MARKHAM**

**TOWN OF MARKHAM  
VARLEY ART GALLERY  
Monday, April 4, 2011  
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

<p><u>Attendance:</u></p> <p><u>Board of Directors Present:</u> Howard Back, Chair (resigned and left the Board meeting) Councillor Don Hamilton Karen Chadwick Mahesh Chokshi Drew Gerrard Paul Keeling Patty Loveland Terrence Pochmurski Beverly Schaeffer (walked out of the Board Meeting) Edward Mariani Robert McCulloch (walked out of the Board Meeting) Sammy Lee Patrick Carr</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> Andrew Brouwer, Deputy Clerk Francesca Dauphinais, Development Officer Brenda Librecz, Commissioner, Community Services and Fire Francine Périnet, Director, Varley Art Gallery John Ryerson, Director of Culture Laura Gold, Committee Clerk</p>	<p><u>Absent:</u> Alan Bryce Ernestine Tahedl</p> <p><u>Resignation prior to the Board meeting:</u> Elizabeth Plashkes</p>
---	--

The Varley McKay Art Foundation of Markham convened at 4:07 p.m. with Howard Back presiding as Chair.

**1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chair reported that Ms. Elizabeth Plashkes submitted her letter of resignation from the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham. The Chair then announced his resignation and provided an explanation for his decision. The Board was thanked for the support it provided to him in his role of Chair. Howard Back left the Board meeting.

Terrence Pochmurski, Secretary, assumed the role of Chair.

The Directors expressed their regret and concern that both the Chair and Vice Chair had resigned. The dedication of both the Chair and Vice Chair to the Gallery was recognized.

## **2. STATEMENT FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES & FIRE**

Brenda Librecz, Community Services & Fire, advised that it may take some time to intake the news of the Chair and the Vice Chair resigning. She formally thanked both the Chair and the Vice Chair for their contributions and dedication to the Gallery. An interim Chair and optionally a Vice Chair will need to be appointed. Ms. Librecz mentioned that the interim Chair is typically someone not interested in committing to the role of Chair. A new Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed at the Annual General Meeting being held on May 30, 2011. Next steps would also include appointing a Chair of the Art Acquisition Committee and two (2) to three (3) Director's to the Nominating Committee.

Ms. Librecz recommended that the Strategic planning process be re-initiated. It was thought that the strategic planning process was critical to developing long-term goals for the Gallery, noting the long term vision for the Gallery has yet to be established. It was clarified that the Town would like to continue working with the Board.

Robert McCulloch and Beverly Schaeffer left the Board meeting.

## **3. ELECTION OF AN INTERIM CHAIR**

The Board nominated Terrence Pochmurski for the role of interim Chair.

Moved by Patrick Carr

Seconded by Don Hamilton

That the Board appoints Terrence Pochmurski as interim Chair of the Varley McKay Art Foundation of Markham.

CARRIED.

Terrence Pochmurski agreed to fulfill both the role of the Chair and the role of the Secretary in interim period.

## **4. COORDINATION OF AN EXIT INTERVIEW FOR THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The Board questioned if there was anything it could do to resolve issues raised. It was agreed that a facilitator should be hired to conduct an exit interview for both the Chair and Vice Chair to obtain feedback and to understand how to address issues in the future. The facilitator hired to conduct the strategic planning process was recommended to serve as the facilitator. The Board agreed that the exit interview should occur at the earliest date possible. It was noted that two (2) or three (3) hours of the strategic planning process could be devoted to the handling of Board issues. Ms. Librecz agreed to help coordinate the exit interviews.

It was questioned if an official resignation was received from Anna Hudson. Staff reported this matter was being reviewed.

Moved by Sammy Lee

Seconded by Patrick Carr

That a facilitator be hired to conduct an exit interview regarding the resignation of the Chair and Vice Chair from the Board of the Varley Foundation of Markham; and,

That Councillor Don Hamilton and Paul Keeling be named the key contacts on all matter regarding to the exit interview of the Chair and the Vice Chair; and,

That a report addressing the situation and circumstances be provided back to the Varley McKay Art Foundation at the next meeting.

CARRIED.

## **5. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

The item "Donation Receipts" was added to the agenda under new business.

## **6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Board requested that the following changes be made to the February 28, 2011 Varley McKay Art Foundation of Markham Minutes:

- 1) Francesca's last name was changed from Amato-Gauci to Dauphinais;
- 2) Kathleen Chiu was removed from the attendance section of the Minutes;
- 3) A typo be corrected on page 2 of the minutes;
- 4) The motion in section 6.f. of the minutes was corrected to read the following:

"That the Board approve the expenditure of up-to \$500 on the Emily Bigioniexhibition; and,

That the funds be transferred from the Unrestricted General Fund to the Designated Fund”.

- 5) The amount netted from the Art Battle at the Gallery was changed from \$450 to \$4,500 in section 6.G. of the Minutes.

Moved by Drew Gerrard

Seconded by Paul Keeling

That the Minutes for the February 28, 2011 Varley McKay Art Foundation of Markham be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

## **7. BUILDING AND LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Bill Pickering reported there was a minor delay in the construction of the gallery addition, but that construction was back on track. Effort was being made to minimize the impact of the construction on the Gallery's activities. Councillor Don Hamilton was requested to be added to the distribution list for construction updates. The Board recognized the tremendous contributions that Mr. Pickering has provided in overseeing the construction at the Gallery.

## **8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Francine Périnet, Director, Varley Art Gallery, provided her Director's report. The following was discussed:

### **Building a Team**

The Gallery hired an Education Coordinator in August 2010 and a Curator in December 2010. A Communication Specialist will be contracted in (mid-April 2011) in collaboration with the Markham Museum to address the marketing and communication needs of both institutions. The first project will be to create a communication plan. The Program Coordinator position was reviewed and reclassified. The Information Service Officer position is currently under review.

### **Gallery Administration Update**

The Gallery developed and implemented a communication strategy, which provides guidelines for communicating with the following persons/groups: Gallery Staff; key players at the Town of Markham; partners of the Gallery; and the Varley-McKay Art Foundation. A management worksheet was created in mid-April 2011 to manage and allocate resources to Gallery projects and initiatives. The Gallery's business objectives for the 2011 Business Plan were developed in March 2011. The objectives are interconnected with the Department of Culture's Objectives and the Town's Strategic Plan.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

There was a meeting held on March 31, 2011 with the consultant hired to prepare the strategic planning process in view of the strategic planning session. A second meeting will be held in June, 2011. At the March 31 meeting staff distinguished between a Strategic Plan and a Business Plan. In 2010, the consultant conducted interviews with Board Members in regards to its vision for the Gallery. Staff will hold a series of focus groups and interviews over the next month to obtain the broader communities vision for the Gallery.

### **Programs at the Gallery**

Gallery staff is developing programs that address the transformation of Canadian Art through history. They are examining the work of Varley and his peers as well as contemporary practices through exhibitions and public programs. In doing so, exhibits like the retrospective exhibit of Kai Chan are created. The exhibit is currently being circulated across Canada.

### **2011 – 2012 Exhibits**

The Gallery's 2011-2012 art exhibition schedule includes the following:

Carol Wainio: The Book, February 11 to May 8 2011 - this exhibit has been organized and circulated by Carleton University Art Gallery. It includes a survey of works by Ottawa based artist Carol Wainio, which includes large-scale paintings that explore the changing nature of illustrations and provides a reflection on contemporary concerns linked to globalization, poverty and the environment.

Cul-de-Sac, June 24 – August 28, 2011 - includes a group exhibition featuring contemporary photography, video and sculpture. The works selected by three curators from York University, invite the public to revisit the idea of suburbia and examine its failures, successes, paradoxes and contradictions.

The Wallace Joyce Collection – September 10 – November 6, 2011 – features major works from Wallace Joyce's collection. The exhibit will mark the opening of the new permanent collection Gallery space.

Scott Conarroe: By Sea and By Rail, September 10 – November 6, 2011 – features photographic landscapes and cityscapes with a depth that parallels the Canadian tradition of depicting the land.

Canada on Canvas, November 16 to April 29, 2012 - This exhibition brings together historical portraiture, landscape, and abstract paintings by some of the country's most distinguished artists, including Cornelius Krieghoff, Emily Carr, Frederick Horsman Varley, Norval Morrisseau and Jean-Paul Riopelle.

### **Grants**

The Gallery has obtained a grant of \$40,300 from the Ontario Arts Council. Other grants applied for include: a \$15,000 Canadian Heritage Grant to support the circulation of exhibitions; an \$8,000 summer employment grant; and a \$15,000 Canada Council for the Arts grant.

### **Support from the Foundation**

The Foundation was reported to support the Gallery with the following: permanent collection acquisitions and conservation, an annual contribution via the Endowment; obtaining research funds for exhibitions and programs; educational projects; the development of promotional material; and development initiatives.

## **9. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Drew Gerrard reviewed the draft financial statements. It was noted that the Financial Statements would be approved at the May 9, 2011 Board meeting.

## **10. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Homes for the holiday**

Ms. Karen Chadwick advised that the 2011 Homes for the Holiday Committee would hold its first meeting next Thursday.

### **B. Art Auction**

Patrick Carr and Paul Keeling, Co Chairs of the 2011 Art Auction, reported that the event was in forty (40) days. All artworks have been photographed. There are approximately forty (40) pieces in the silent auction and sixty (60) pieces in live auction. Tickets were distributed to the Board of Directors to sell. The price of the ticket was reduced from \$100 to \$75 for one (1) ticket and a promotion was introduced, \$100 for two (2) two tickets. It was believed that reducing the cost of tickets would provide greater value to art patrons and attract more patrons to the art auction.

It was noted that the catalogue for the Art Auction was being printed by IBM. All of the executives from IBM are expected to attend the Art Auction. It was anticipated that approximately \$50,000 would be raised from the Art Auction. The Mayor will attend the auction and say a few words.

It was reported that Howard Back is a big sponsor of the 2011 Art Auction. Both Elizabeth Plashkes and Howard Back confirmed they will attend the Art Auction. The Board thanked both of the Co-Chairs for their incredible job undertaking the planning and execution of the 2011 Art Auction.

### **C. Art Battle at the Varley**

Mr. Terrance Pochmurski reported that approximately \$4,500 was netted from the 2011 Art Battle at the Varley. There are plans to hold another Art Battle at the Varley in January of 2012 and in January of 2013.

### **D. Development Officer Report**

Ms. Francesca Dauphinais reported that she was currently assisting with the planning and execution of the Art Auction and that she will soon start working on the planning of the 2011 Homes for the Holiday event.

**11. DONATION RECEIPTS**

Francine Périnet, Director, Varley Art Gallery, reported that all outstanding donation receipts have been handled. It was requested that the donation receipts be included as a regular agenda item.

**12. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE ART ACQUISITION COMMITTEE**

Mr. John Ryerson, Director of Culture, advised that an interim Chair needed to be appointed to the Art Acquisition Committee, as the Board has to address the Wallace Joyce donation before a given time.

Moved by Terrence Pochmurski

Seconded by Paul Keeling

That Patrick Carr be appointed as interim Chair of the Art Acquisition Committee.

CARRIED.

**13. ELECTION OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

Moved by Don Hamilton

Seconded by Paul Keeling

That the Board appoints Sammy Lee, Edward Mariani and Terrance Pochmurski to the Nomination Committee.

CARRIED.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board of the Varley McKay Art Foundation of Markham adjourned at 6:13 p.m.