



## MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES May 28, 2014 Meeting No. 2

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#### **PRESENT**

##### Members

Taleen Der Haroutiounian  
Frankie Ip  
Stephen Lusk

##### Council

Regional Councillor Gord Landon

##### Guest

Mary Anne Barkhouse

##### Staff

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

#### **REGRETS**

Dr. Jadwiga Byszewski  
Paul Cosburn  
Glen Harrington  
Judy Lau  
Peter Pavlovic  
Alina Tarbhai  
Kenny Yu

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:15 pm with Stephen Lusk serving 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 ON FEBRUARY 12, 2014**

Adoption of the minutes of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting held on February 12, 2014 was deferred to the next meeting since there was no quorum.

#### **5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None was identified.

## **6. SCULPTURE PATH**

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that, in 2013 the Committee agreed to undertake a substantial project such as commissioning a piece to begin a sculpture path. Mary Anne Barkhouse, an indigenous artist whose works are created in bronze and granite, was commissioned as the artist for the project. It was reported that Mary Anne is a member of the Nimpkish Kwakiutl in British Columbia and has exhibited in numerous shows across Canada. Her public sculptures are installed at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, the Macdonald Stuart Art Centre, University of Western Ontario, Thunder Bay Art Gallery, and the Millennium Walkway in Peterborough, Ontario.

Ms Barkhouse advised the Committee that she draws inspiration from the forces of man versus the forces of nature and how they play out over time. Another inspiration for this work is formal gardens to be found at European palaces, such as Versailles. She described her concept for the work: a granite sculpture in the form of an 18" high 'bench', inspired by designs of the formal garden, 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 decision has been made to locate the art piece in the park at Toogood Pond on a large, flat, high piece of land visible from Carlton Road. Foundations would be poured for the granite and a durable and safe ground cover (likely a kind of rubberized aggregate) will surround the work, making it both safe as well as accessible. The path will connect to the sidewalk so that people can access the work directly from the bus stop at Carleton and McKay Cres. It will be accessible. The granite will be installed in the fall of 2014 but the bronze sculptures may not be ready for installation until the spring of 2015 since 3 – 4 months are required for casting the bronze pieces.

It was

Moved by	Stephen Lusk
Seconded by	Frankie Ip

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee recommend that the art work proposal submitted by Mary Anne Barkhouse be accepted as proposed.

Since there was no quorum, a vote on this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

## **7. TRAFFIC CONTROL BOXES**

This project was initiated by the Public Realm and supported by the Public Art Program. Public Realm paid for the first phase. Taleen Der Haroutiounian reported that Forge Collective was selected as the artist team for the project; it has developed the concept of Spirits of Markham in the form of animals such as squirrels, rabbits and foxes placed into environments that reflect the diverse aspects of life in Markham.

The first wrap featuring a turtle in a river, which reflects movement through Markham, has been installed at Town Centre and Highway 7. An additional one wrap in each ward (making a total of nine wraps) are scheduled to be installed by the end of May.

Markham has set aside funds and could commission two additional wrap designs at a cost of \$5,000 to address heritage and rural districts. Phase 2 could include working with Unionville High School to mentor students and staff who are interested in participating with this project. Markham staff also hope to interest York Region in the project so that wraps may be placed on regional roads.

It was

Moved by            Stephen Lusk  
Seconded by        Taleen Der Haroutiounian

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee recommend that two additional wrap designs be commissioned from Forge Collective at a cost of \$5,000 to address heritage and rural districts, and that plans move forward to mentor students at Unionville High School.

Since there was no quorum, a vote on this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

## **8. PAN AM ART**

It was reported that no budget has been established for public art pieces in support of the Pan Am Games. Shane Clodd, a local sculptor, offered to donate a wood carving but it would not withstand outside weather conditions. Suzanne Smoke, who plays a major role at the Georgina Arts Centre & Gallery (GAC), has offered to commission a sculpture piece by native artist David Maracle. She considers it possible that funds for this project could be raised from a number of sources including the Canada Council, the Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Power and The Royal Bank of Canada. The project is being overseen by the Markham Host Pan Am Advisory Committee by Mary Pan and Elisabeth Plashkes

## **9. PUBLIC ART UPDATES**

### **A) Markham Southeast Community Centre**

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that a jury had selected the proposal entitled “Top Garden” by artist team Guild, which features seven tops in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours. The jury liked the proposal’s theme of playfulness, how the proposed Top Garden integrates with the community centre building, and that it encourages people in the garden area to become engaged with the tops. The artist team Guild has delivered the engineering drawings and is working with a fabricator to test prototypes. The project is on schedule, to be ready for the opening of the community centre in fall 2015.

**B) Henderson St. Bridge Project**

In 2013, five emerging York Region artists, who had never before had the opportunity to produce a major art work, were selected by the F. H. Varley Art Gallery and City of Markham to paint a mural on the CN Bridge intersecting Henderson and Proctor Avenues to enhance the City of Markham's outdoor space. Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that the official unveiling took place in May 2014. It has since become apparent that the project could have benefitted from technical guidance to deal with leaks and other weather-related issues. This will be taken into consideration for Phase 2 of the project.

**C) Sculpture Path**

In 2013, the Committee agreed to undertake the project of commissioning a piece to begin a sculpture path. Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that Markham has budgeted funds for a second sculpture project, which will be located at the Markham Museum to the left of the new museum building. A general call for art proposals closed on May 27, 2014 and twenty-one responses were received. A jury composed of John McEwen, recognized both internationally and across Canada for his many site-specific installations and public commissions, Linda Jansma, Curator of the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa, and Ardy Reid, Board of Directors of The Friends of Markham Museum, will meet on June 2, 2014 to review and select up to five submissions for further consideration.

**D) Cornell Community Centre**

The successful proposal was submitted by Douglas Walker, who has a respected profile in the Canadian art world. In the 1990's he began to concentrate his efforts on the "Blue and White" delft work for which he has become known. Mr. Walker has used the medium of oil on paper although the effect looks like blue paint on white ceramic tiles. Mr. Walker proposed to use this concept on ceramic tiles for the art work at the Cornell Community Centre.

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that, after two months of testing, Mr. Walker is not able to reproduce the blue tint on the tiles that is necessary for the integrity of the image. He has recently initiated testing of printing on the back of glass tiles and, as a result, installation will not take place until fall. In response to Committee questions about the effect of heat, humidity and chlorine on glass tiles, Ms Ghaznavi agreed to raise these points with Mr. Walker.

**E) Private Sector**

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that TACC Developments has proposed a commemorative monument to William Berczy to be prominently placed in a new development in Upper Unionville. In fall 2013, Markham staff met with TACC Developments to discuss the project. Ms. Ghaznavi has recently prepared and submitted a proposed project budget to Mayor Frank Scarpitti for consideration.

**F) Public Art Reserve Fund**

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that a Public art Reserve Fund has been developed.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Aviva**

Stephen Lusk reported that Aviva Insurance created the Aviva Community Fund competition to make a positive impact through funding local and national initiatives for change, whether through providing new opportunities for at-risk youth, improving education, protecting the environment, or supporting cultural activities. It was suggested that Committee members consider how best it could enter a submission for consideration in this competition.

**B) Committee Website**

Taleen der Haroutiounian enquired about the possibility of creating a Committee website to provide a connection point between the City and residents and also about the possibility of creating a share drive or other means for Committee members to share ideas for public art projects. Ms der Haroutiounian will investigate these ideas and report back to the Committee.

**11. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible in order to pass the motions relating to approval for the Mary Anne Barkhouse sculpture and the additional designs for the Traffic Control boxes.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by            Frankie Ip  
Seconded by        Taleen der Haroutiounian

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

CARRIED