



MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES June 4, 2014 Meeting No. 3

PRESENT

Members

Dr. Jadwiga Byszewski
Paul Cosburn
Taleen Der Haroutiounian
Frankie Ip
Judy Lau
Stephen Lusk
Alina Tarbhai

Council

Regional Councillor Gord Landon

Staff

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

REGRETS

Glen Harrington
Peter Pavlovic
Kenny Yu

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:00 pm with Paul Cosburn 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 MEETINGS ON FEBRUARY 12, 2014 AND ON MAY 28, 2014

It was

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon

Seconded by Alina Tarbhai

THAT the minutes of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meetings held on February 12, 2014 and May 28, 2014 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A) Public Art Reserve Fund

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that a Public Art Reserve Fund has been developed, to be administered by the Culture Services department. The first major contribution has been made by developer Del Ridge Homes. It is felt that it is important to use these funds for substantial projects to encourage other local developers to make similar contributions.

It was

Moved by Stephen Lusk

Seconded by Alina Tarbhai

THAT the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee recommend to the Markham Culture Services department and to Markham Council that the funds currently in the Public Art Reserve Fund be allocated to commission one major art piece, possibly to promote and support Markham's involvement with the 2015 Pan Am Games.

CARRIED

It was

Moved by Alina Tarbhai

Seconded by Stephen Lusk

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee request assistance from the Markham Clerk's Office to draft and send a thank you letter to Del Ridge Homes for giving back to the community through its contribution to the Public Art Reserve Fund.

CARRIED

6. SCULPTURE PATH

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that, in 2013 the Committee agreed to undertake the project of 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. Ms Barkhouse draws inspiration from cultural imprints and affiliations between disparate objects.

Ms. Ghaznavi briefly described the proposed sculpture piece: 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 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 would surround the work, making it both safe and accessible. The path will connect to the sidewalk so that people can access the work directly from the bus stop at Carleton Road and McKay Crescent. 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.

Questions and comments from Committee members related to the type and colours of the surfacing, the types of dogs to be portrayed, and the positioning of the sculpture. Paul Cosburn will provide Ms. Barkhouse with contact information regarding sources for appropriate surfacing products. It was reported that the choice of dogs is to represent the different cultures present in Markham as well as the relationship between humans and hunting dogs. Committee members suggested that elevating the sculpture slightly might improve its sightlines.

It was

Moved by	Stephen Lusk
Seconded by	Frankie Ip

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee recommend that the concept of the art work proposal submitted by Mary Anne Barkhouse be accepted, subject to the approval of final details.

CARRIED

7. TRAFFIC CONTROL BOXES

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, briefly reviewed the Traffic Control Boxes art project, which was initiated by the Public Realm Committee and supported by the Public Art Program. Forge Collective was selected as the artist team for the first phase of the project; it 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.

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 includes working with Unionville High School to mentor students who are interested in participating with this project. Markham is in negotiation with York Region to interest it in commissioning wraps to be placed on traffic control boxes 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 to address heritage and rural districts be commissioned from Forge Collective at a cost of \$5,000, and that plans move forward to mentor students at Unionville High School.

CARRIED

8. SCULPTURE PATH

In 2013, the Committee agreed to undertake the project of commissioning the first piece for a sculpture path. Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that Markham has budgeted funds for a second sculpture project. Plans are to locate this art piece at the Markham Museum to the left of the new museum building with the intention of locating future pieces between Markham Museum and the Markham Civic Centre. A general call for art proposals closed on May 27, 2014 and twenty-one responses were received. A jury composed of John McEwen, recognized 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, met on June 2, 2014, selected five submissions for further consideration, and asked those artists to create proposals for the project.

The committee expressed the wish to know in advance about candidates for art juries so it is assured that there are well qualified people on the jury. Ms. Ghaznavi agreed and advised that committee members are always welcome to observe the art selection process by any jury.

Regional Councillor Gord Landon left the meeting at 7:45 pm.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A) Meeting time

It was agreed that the Committee would move its meeting time from 7:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be scheduled in September 2014, possibly Wednesday September 10 or September 17, at 6:00 pm.

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Stephen Lusk

Seconded by Taleen der Haroutiounian

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

CARRIED