



MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES February 12, 2014 Meeting No. 1

PRESENT

Members

Dr. Jadwiga Byszewski
Paul Cosburn
Taleen Der Haroutiounian
Frankie Ip
Stephen Lusk
Alina Tarbhai
Kenny Yu

Council

Regional Councillor Gord Landon

Staff

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

REGRETS

Regrets

Glen Harrington
Judy Lau
Peter Pavlovic

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:03 pm with Paul Cosburn serving as Chair. New members were welcomed to the Committee and introductions were performed.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None was declared.

3. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Committee discussion focussed on how to select a Committee Chair and Vice Chair. Paul Cosburn and Stephen Lusk agreed to serve as Committee Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

It was

Moved by Kenny Yu
Seconded by Alina Tarbhai

THAT Paul Cosburn be elected as Chair of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee (MPAAC).

CARRIED

It was

Moved by Alina Tarbhai
Seconded by Kenny Yu

THAT Stephen Lusk be elected as Chair of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee (MPAAC).

CARRIED

4. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with one addition:

- Selection of works by local artists

5. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 2, 2013

It was

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Seconded by Alina Tarbhai

THAT the minutes of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting held on October 2, 2013 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None was identified.

7. PUBLIC ART UPDATES

A) Markham Southeast Community Centre

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that a general call for art proposals for the Markham Southeast Community Centre was made in 2013 and twenty-six responses were received. A public art jury, including the architect of the Markham Southeast Community Centre, selected five artists/artist teams to present their proposals on August 9, 2013. From these five proposals, the jury selected the proposal entitled “Top Garden” by the 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. Markham staff are negotiating the contract with “Guild”.

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 reported that this project has been completed and Markham is receiving very good feedback about it from the community. The official unveiling will be scheduled for May 12, 2014.

C) Traffic Control Boxes

Discussion at previous meetings revealed there was not much Committee enthusiasm for the traffic control boxes project; as a result, the project was assumed by the Public Realm Committee, funded by Operations, but managed through the Public Art program. 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 such as commercial and residential new developments, green paths, connective corridors, etc. that reflect Markham. The first wrap featuring a turtle has been installed at Town Centre and Highway 7. The remaining wraps will be installed when warmer weather returns; Markham staff are working with the Public Realm Committee to strategically place two wraps in each ward by May. Markham has set aside funds and could commission additional wrap designs. Next steps for Phase 2 include working with Unionville High School and York Region to engage students and staff who are interested in participating with this project.

D) Sculpture Path

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. The contract is ready to be signed and the next steps are selection of the site and the

design phase. The intention is to have the sculpture ready for installation in fall 2014. Markham has budgeted funds for a second project which will be a juried process.

E) Cornell Community Centre

Corinna Ghaznavi, reported that the jury, convened to select the successful art proposal for the Cornell Community Centre, conducted a rigorous selection process. There was a very clear vote for the proposal 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. The identified space at the community centre is two brick walls, one above another, each almost the same size. For the first floor, Mr. Walker has proposed a work showing a water garden of flowers to represent the energetic level of that floor. The flowers would be non-specific – they could represent the diversity of cultures and ages of Markham residents frequenting the community centre. For the upper level, Mr. Walker proposed a work showing a floating white cloud on a background of dark blue tile, representing the relative calm to be found on the second floor. However, Mr. Walker has found that the blue on white delft appearance was too sterile for the identified space at the Cornell Community Centre and has introduced a small amount of colour into each work.

F) Private Sector

Markham Planning staff recognize the value of including installation of public art as an integral part of new development projects and have been actively raising the issue with developers during initial discussions. Remington Group is very enthusiastic and has proposed an extremely ambitious public plan for its development in downtown Markham. Markham staff are working with the Remington Group to select sites and develop a comprehensive selection process. TACC Developments has proposed a commemorative monument to William Berczy to be prominently placed in the new development in Upper Unionville. The Culture department has requested that the selection process follow the public art policy. The process will involve an invitational call to five artists to make proposals from which an independent jury, named by the public art coordinator, will make a recommendation to be confirmed by the Advisory Committee.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A) 2013 Call for Local Artists

Corinna Ghaznavi reported that 140 works were received from 70 local artists in response to Markham's 2013 call for artwork to be placed in Markham offices and public places. In July 2013, Ms. Ghaznavi led the Committee in the review of all the submitted pieces in order to select a number of works within the total project budget of \$5,000. Committee members voted and by consensus selected four works which have

been hung in the Mayor's office and other offices on the fourth floor of the Markham Civic Centre:

- March Thaw, mixed water media by Gail George
- White Dream, acrylic on canvas by Stephen Yau
- The Sea Spreads to the Evening, oil on canvas by Janet Reid
- Stiver Mill, oil on canvas by Edward Abela

Based on the large number of responses and the organization required to accept, adjudicate and return artworks, the Culture Department feels that an event should be organized around this process in the future. Markham Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Brenda Librecz has suggested an outdoor art exhibition.

B) Outdoor Art Exhibition

Corinna Ghaznavi has been asked by Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Brenda Librecz to coordinate an outdoor art exhibition on the grounds of the Civic Centre to support and showcase local artists. Ms. Ghaznavi has consulted with City of Toronto colleagues for ideas to carry out the event. It would be financed through artist registration fees. The event would be juried and would include fine arts (sculpture, painting, drawing, prints) as well as fine crafts (jewelry, pottery, etc.). Councillor Landon suggested looking into a date that would piggy back on an existing event like the Children's Festival, when required facilities would already be in place.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

Committee members discussed the frequency of meetings. Because there might not be new developments to report on a monthly basis, Committee members agreed to meet on a quarterly basis, and as necessary. The next meeting will be scheduled for a date in May 2014.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Seconded by	Stephen Lusk

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

CARRIED