

Public Realm Advisory Committee

March 20, 2014

Canada Room

Attendance:

<u>Members:</u> Councillor Valerie Burke Councillor Logan Kanapathi Omar Bhatti Councillor Alex Chiu <u>Regrets:</u> Hanif Nori, Chair Sadiq Pirani	<u>Staff:</u> Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Brett Lucyk, Public Realm Coordinator Karen Boniface, Technical Coordinator Paul Ingham, Director, Operations Catherine Jay, Manager, Urban Design Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Public Realm Advisory Committee convened at 4:05 p.m. with Alex Chiu presiding as Chair.

1. Introductions

Karen Boniface introduced Brett Lucyk the new Public Realm Coordinator.

2. Public Realm Advisory Committee Photo

The photo of the Public Realm Advisory Committee was deferred to a date to be determined.

3. Review of Public Realm Draft Strategy & Approval Process

Brett Lucyk presented the draft Public Realm Strategy. A copy of the draft strategy was circulated to the Committee.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Ensure the strategy includes photos representing all communities in Markham;
- Ensure Markham history is referenced in the strategy;
- Avoid using overly technical language in the strategy;
- Make sure the strategy is simple and easy to understand;
- Emphasize the importance of working together in harmony to improve Markham's public realm in the strategy;
- Should include 'Made in Markham Innovations' under area of focus;
- Possibly animate Markham's neighbourhoods rather than public spaces;
- Liked how it looks at something from each of the different Markham communities;
- Liked the title of the strategy "Shared Places Our Spaces.

A revised version of the Draft Public Realm Strategy will be sent to the Committee via email for its feedback. Comments should be emailed to Brett Lucyk.

Omar Bhatti agreed to work on the message from the Committee to be included in the Public Realm Strategy.

It was suggested that the Committee meet again prior to the draft strategy being brought forward to the General Committee. The Strategy is targeted to be brought forward to the General Committee on May 5, 2014. Public consultation sessions will be held after Council provides its authority to do so. It was suggested that there a four year implementation plan for the strategy be developed in conjunction with the public consultation process.

4. Public Art Update

Henderson Bridge

Pictures of the mural hung on the CN bridge at Henderson and Proctor Avenue in Thornhill were displayed to the Committee. The mural was created by Katharine Harvey and 5 other artists in partnership with the Varley-McKay Art Gallery. It consists of 21 panels of which some are realistic and some are abstract. The mural was inspired by the Group of Seven, as Arthur Lismer McDonald, Group of Seven Artist lived in Thornhill. The mural is coated to protect it from the weather, but will need to be touched up over the years.

The opening for the Henderson Bridge will be held on May 12, 2014. An invitation will be sent to committee members to attend.

Traffic Control Boxes

Pictures of the following were displayed to the Committee, the wrapped decorative traffic control box at Markham Civic Centre; and the design concepts for the other traffic control boxes. A wildlife theme was selected for the artwork to be displayed on the traffic control boxes. One traffic box per ward will be wrapped with the wildlife murals this spring.

Culture staff have approached Unionville High School to see if they would like to participate in any expansion of this project. York Region has also demonstrated an interest in wrapping its traffic control boxes.

The opening for the decorative traffic boxes will also be held on May 12, 2014. An invitation will be sent to committee members to attend.

Toogood Pond

A sculpture by Ann Barkhouse is being created to be installed at Toogood Pond. It is anticipated that it will be installed in two phases, one late fall, and the second in spring, 2015.

Cornell Community Centre

A picture of the public art, Cloudflower, designed by Douglas Walker to be installed at the Cornell Community Centre on two floors, one above the other was displayed to the Committee.

South East Community Centre

Pictures of the Top Garden, designed by Design Guild Inc. to be installed at the new South East Community Centre were displayed to the Committee.

Other Public Realm Initiatives

Other Public Realm Initiatives included the following:

- Keeping Markham Beautiful Month – April 2014;
- Adopt a Park Program;
- Winter volunteer ice rinks;
- Community Tree Plantings;
- Watch for tulip and daffodils in the grass in April at the Markham Civic Centre, Armadale Community Centre, N/W Steeles and Markham Road and along Carlton Road at Toogood Pond;
- Largest native plant sale in Canada being held at Civic Centre on May 10, 2014.

5. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Public Realm Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

6. Adjournment

The Public Realm Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:22 p.m.