



MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES June 5, 2013 Meeting No. 5

PRESENT

Members

Matthew Korchinski, Chair
Paul Cosburn
Judy Lau
Stefania Pflugbeil
Alina Tarbhai

Staff

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

REGRETS

Regrets

Glen Harrington
Peter Pavlovic
Kenny Yu
Linda Irvine, Manager, Parks & Open Spaces
Rayson Wong, Public Art Intern
Francine Périnet, Director, Varley Art Gallery
Regional Councillor Gord Landon

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05 pm with Matthew Korchinski as Chair.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None was declared.

3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with the following addition:

- New art projects

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON APRIL 24, 2013

It was

Moved by Paul Cosburn
Seconded by Alina Tarbhai

THAT the minutes of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meetings held on April 24, 2013 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None was identified.

6. CONFIRMATION OF ARTWORK SELECTED FOR THE CORNELL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, 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. Mr. Walker graduated with an Honours Diploma from the Ontario College of Art in 1981. During the 1980's Mr. Walker received acclaim for his work in photo- drawing, photography, and sculpture. In the 1990's he turned to painting and recently has concentrated his efforts on the "Blue and White" delft work for which he has become known. In Toronto Mr. Walker has shown his works at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Powerplant, YYZ, Mercer Union and at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. He has also shown his works at galleries across Canada and in the United States.

To achieve the "Blue and White" delft appearance, Mr. Walker has used the medium of oil on paper although the effect looks like blue paint on white ceramic tiles. Mr. Walker has proposed to use this concept on ceramic tiles for the art work at the Cornell Community Centre. The identified space there 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 in dark blue on white tile to represent the energetic level of that floor. The flowers will be non-specific – they could represent the diversity of cultures and ages of Markham residents frequenting the Cornell Community Centre. For the upper level, Mr. Walker proposes 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. The silhouettes of the garden and cloud will match in size and position. To build depth and visual interest, each work will feature crackling in the surface textures as well as a decorative border.

Committee members were extremely impressed with the proposal which they found to be fascinating, mysterious and thought provoking. Committee members expressed how much they liked this concept for the Cornell Community Centre.

It was

Moved by Alina Tarbhai
Seconded by Stefania Pflugbeil

THAT the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee recommend to Markham Council that the art work proposal for the Cornell Community Centre submitted by Douglas Walker be accepted as proposed.

Carried

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Corinna Ghaznavi reported that Moe Hosseini-Ara, Director, Service Excellence with Markham Public Library, has been seconded to the position of Acting Director of Culture for the City of Markham.

Corinna advised that the Board of Directors of the Markham Museum had voted to not proceed further with the Markham Museum art project. She also reported that the artist, who had been selected for the Bicycle Rack project, had cancelled the contract. The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee recommended that another call for proposals be issued; however, the Markham Public Realm Committee decided to purchase pre-fabricated bicycle racks. The result of these two events is that the allocated funds have been returned to the budget and therefore, an opportunity has been presented to identify a new art project. Ms Ghaznavi suggested that the committee might wish to undertake a substantial project such as commissioning a piece to begin a sculpture path in Unionville. She proposed selecting Mary Anne Barkhouse, an indigenous artist, as the artist for such a project. Ms Barkhouse' works are created in bronze; they would be very durable on a sculpture path. A second choice might be to partner with the Markham Public Realm Committee to paint artworks on traffic control boxes.

Discussion revealed there was not much enthusiasm for the traffic control boxes project. Committee members preferred to support a project that would position Markham well for future public art projects, and therefore supported the proposal for the sculpture path project.

It was

Moved by Judy Lau
Seconded by Stefania Pflugbeil

THAT the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee recommend to Markham Council that the proposal to commission Mary Anne Barkhouse to begin a sculpture path in Unionville be accepted as proposed.

Carried

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, July 3, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Varley Art Gallery, 216 Main Street, Unionville.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.