



MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES May 23, 2013 Meeting No. 4

PRESENT

Members

Paul Cosburn
Stefania Pflugbeil
Alina Tarbhai
Kenny Yu

Staff

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator
Rayson Wong, Public Art Intern
Francine Périnet, Director, Varley Art Gallery
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

Guest

Douglas Walker, Artist

REGRETS

Regrets

Matthew Korchinski, Chair
Glen Harrington
Judy Lau
Peter Pavlovic

Linda Irvine, Manager, Parks & Open Spaces
Regional Councillor Gord Landon

1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None was declared.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:10 pm with Francine Périnet serving as Chair.

3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None were identified.

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

Adoption of the minutes of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting held on April 24, 2013 was deferred to the next meeting since there was no quorum.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None was identified.

6. PRESENTATION OF DOUGLAS WALKER PROPOSAL 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 process; there was a very clear vote for the proposal submitted by Douglas Walker.

Douglas Walker has a respected profile in the Canadian art world. He 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" for which he is now known. Mr. Walker has exhibited his work at the ICA in London and the Dia foundation in New York. In Toronto he has shown at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Powerplant, YYZ, Mercer Union and at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. He has also shown at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Dunlop Art Gallery in Regina, the Agnes Etherington Art Centre in Kingston, the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography in Ottawa, Hallwalls in Buffalo, and the 49th Parallel in New York City. Mr. Walker's current works have been displayed in Oshawa and at the University of Toronto in Ontario, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and in Charlottetown, P. E. I.

He has used the medium of oil on paper although the effect looks like blue paint on white ceramic tiles. It is this approach he has proposed to use for the art work at the Cornell Community Centre. The identified space is two brick walls, one above another, each almost the same size. For the first floor, he 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 different cultures and ages of Markham residents frequenting the Cornell Community Centre. For the upper level, he proposes a work showing a floating white cloud on a dark blue background, representing the relative calm of the second floor. The silhouettes of the garden and cloud will match in size and position. To build depth and visual interest, both works will feature crackling in the surface textures as well as a decorative border.

Committee members were extremely impressed with the presentation and expressed how much they liked this concept for the Cornell Community Centre.

7. CONFIRMATION OF ARTWORK SELECTED 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.

Because there was no quorum, a vote was not taken. Information about the proposal will be emailed to committee members who were not able to attend the May meeting. It has been proposed that the Committee hold another meeting or a conference call to discuss and vote on the proposal so that it may be moved forward.

8. UPDATE ON PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

A) Henderson St. Bridge Project

Francine Périnet, Director of Varley Art Gallery, reported that the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee had partnered with the Markham Public Realm Committee on this project. A Request for Proposal to elicit project proposals closed in February 2013. Five emerging York Region artists, who had never before had the opportunity to produce a major art work, were selected. Katherine Harvey was engaged to mentor the artists, including assisting them to research possible contexts for the art work as well as to respect art practices other than their own.

The artists have agreed on presenting the art on one side of three sections of the wall since they are the most visible; this will form phase one of the project. Their preliminary proposal to Councillor Burke and Thornhill ratepayers was well received. When the final proposal is ready, it will be presented at a joint meeting of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee and the Markham Public Realm Committee. If Section 37 funds become available, Phase two would include the east wall.

B) Markham South East Community Centre

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that 26 proposals were received. A jury panel will be convened on June 17, 2013 to reduce the proposals under consideration to five or less. The committee discussed whether to keep the entire project budget to address the front entrance urban square or to split the budget and also address other spaces such as exterior walls. It was thought that it would be advisable to review the proposals before making a decision; if a proposal warranted it, then the entire budget could be used for the main project alone.

C) Markham Museum Project

Francine Périnet, Director of Varley Art Gallery, reported that the artist made a presentation to the Markham Museum Board of Directors about the project and the budget. The Board of Directors voted to not proceed further with the project.

D) Joint project on public realm bicycle racks

Francine Périnet, Director of Varley Art Gallery, reported that the artist, who had been selected, 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.

E) Private Sector Art Projects

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that a master plan for downtown Markham has been submitted by the Remington Group. To ensure that the proposed public art fits with the feel of downtown Markham, Ms Ghaznavi will meet with representatives of the Remington Group to clarify the selection process and the choice of artist.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None was identified.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee will be called in the near future to consider the art work proposed for the Cornell Community Centre.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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