



MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES MAY 23, 2012 Meeting No. 2

PRESENT

Members

Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Paul Cosburn
Glenn Harrington
Matthew Korchinski, Chair
Judy Lau
Stefania Pfugbeil, Vice-Chair
Alina Tarbhai
Kenny Yu

Staff

Francine Périnet, Director, Varley Art Gallery
John Ryerson, Director of Culture
Kimberly Chan, Committee Secretary

REGRETS

Regrets

Peter Pavlovic
Linda Irvine, Manager of Parks and
Open Space Development

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:02 pm with Matthew Korchinski presiding as Chair.

1. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee accepted the Agenda as distributed.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 8, 2012

It was

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Seconded by Alina Tarbhai

THAT the minutes of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee held on February 8, 2012 be adopted as distributed; and

THAT the minutes of the Joint Public Art/Public Realm Advisory Committee held on March 7, 2012 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

3. PUBLIC ART PLAN

John Ryerson, Director of Culture, provided an overview of the following Markham Public Art Policies approved by Council on May 12, 2012: (1) Public Art Policy-Private Sector; and (2) Public Art Projects-Markham Municipal Projects.

The policy for the private sector encourages a contribution of up to one percent of new residential and non-residential construction projects for public art.

The policy for municipal projects allocate up to one percent of construction cost of new municipal construction budgets and municipal renovation projects over one million dollars for the purpose of public art; including but not limited to new buildings, parks and open space, major street reconstruction/streetscape projects, new or major upgrades to bridges, fences wall and barriers. The policies will be evaluated in 3 years time.

The next step is to hire a consultant to create a 3-year plan to establish the scale of public art projects.

It was reported that public art is included in the preliminary Markham Southeast Community Centre project plan.

It was recommended that a public art project be undertaken in the Box Grove area and that overtime a visual inventory of public art projects be created (eg. discovery walk, public art block). These projects can then be used to showcase Markham's enthusiasm for public art.

There was a discussion on having volunteers assist with the installment/vision for public art so that it becomes a community-based project.

4. UPDATE ON PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

A) Installation of Mural at Pomona Mills Tennis Club in Thornhill

Francine Périnet, Director of the Art Gallery, reported that the mural a Pomona Mills Tennis Club in Thornhill had been installed.

It was advised that there is a public art project currently underway at Markham Museum. **Action: More information on this project will be provided at the next meeting.**

The public art in the Cornell building (formerly Markham East) has identified the location and will be managed by the coordinator to be hired.

Action: Francine was requested to talk to Allan Bell from the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation with respect to getting public art in area.

B) Bridge Project (Proctor & Henderson)

Ms. Périnet provided an update on the public art project to beautify the bridge at Proctor & Henderson. It was reported that the preparatory work is being done and that \$15,000 has been allocated towards this project.

C) Public Realm

Ms. Périnet provided an update on the public art project to create signature bicycle racks. It was reported that the project is underway and that the artist is in the process of creating a replica of the bicycle racks. The project is being funded by the public realm pilot project budget.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) Committee Ideas for Public Art

The Committee provided the following ideas for public art in Markham:

- Place public art commemorating Markham's "city" status and celebrating the entrance into Markham (Note: possibly utilize Markham hills and high ground to position public art); Action: John to get topographical to see if there are public locations
- Place signs at the border of Markham/Scarborough, more specifically, along the ramp located at the intersection of Steeles Ave and Hwy 404 for the purpose of thanking Markham visitors; Action done, map attached showing public land owned at this intersection
- Integrate public art into community centers;
- Place an iconic art piece in downtown Markham;
- Create a public art plan for Markham municipal buildings by visiting each building to gauge both the need for public art and whether sufficient funding is available;
- Install different colour street lighting to make visitors aware they are in Markham;
- Integrate public art into VIVA bus stations, bus interior and garbage bins to encourage transit use. Similar to New York, student artwork can be used to reflect Markham's future prospects at VIVA bus stations (Note: it was recommended that this project be pursued when the VIVA project is fully realized). **Action: Judy Lau was requested to draft a proposal;**
- Promote the public art program through a public meeting, visual publications in Markham newspapers (e.g. an article in the Markham Economist & Sun), or initiate a community-based activity/celebration;
- Animate public spaces by displaying student designed banners along the street for a specified period of time (Note: Uninville is looking into this option);

- Invite amateur artists to submit work for display at Markham events;
- Have water sculptures and interesting playgrounds in parks, similar to what you would see in a theme park;
- Ensure sufficient funding to financially support the art community;
- Use public art as a branding mechanism.

It was noted that new projects should not focus solely on the public art, but rather the focus should be on how the public art will impact the community. It should also be determined whether the public art is temporary or permanent. Members were encouraged to bring in pictures of feasible public art works.

B) Election of the Vice-Chair

It was

Moved by	Alina Tarbhai
Seconded by	Kenny Yu

THAT Stefania Pfugbeil be appointed as Vice Chair of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee.

CARRIED.

C) Go on, Share your thoughts on a wall (real, not Facebook)

It was reported that Markham is investigating joining the piano cities in the world. This project involves integrating old pianos for public use/enjoyment. The project is licensed to Pan Am.

Action: John Ryerson, Director of Culture is making inquiries.

D) Pedestrian bridges the make an artful connection

The article “Pedestrian bridges the make an artful connection” was circulated to the Committee as part of the agenda package.

E) Web Presence

There was a discussion on launching a Markham Public Art webpage to: (1) communicate the Public Art Plan; (2) to post public art pamphlets/information; and (3) to exchange public art ideas. It was noted that before this can be done the content will need to be created and that social media can also be used to create public art awareness. For example, Twitter can be used to provide public art updates.

6. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee will be held on June 20th at 7:00 pm in the Ontario Room.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.