

Public Realm Advisory Committee
February 29, 2012
Canada Room

Attendance:

<u>Members:</u> Councillor Valerie Burke Councillor Alex Chiu Sidiq Parani Omar Bhatti <u>Regrets:</u> Hanif Nori	<u>Staff:</u> Karen Boniface, Technical Coordinator Ronji Borooah, Town Architect Paul Ingham, Director of Operations Catherine Jay, Manager of Urban Design Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fires Services Francine Périnet, Director of the Art Gallery
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The Public Realm Advisory Committee convened at 5:06 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee Members briefly introduced themselves.

2. PUBLIC REALM ORIENTATION

Ms. Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fires Services introduced the concept of public realm.

Ms. Karen Boniface, Technical Coordinator, provided a presentation entitled “Public Realm is the Space in Which Public Life Takes Place”.

Discussion

A Member questioned if fences are included in the public realm work plan, as fences like the wooden fence on Old Kennedy and Denison are no longer visually appealing. Staff reported that the aesthetics of fences may be resolved through by-law enforcement and through property standards.

The Director of the Art Gallery provided a brief description of the following public art/public realm projects that are currently underway:

- 1) Mural Project- A mural has been completed by a local artist in exchange for professional development opportunities. The mural will be hung at Pomona Valley Tennis Club to improve the public realm. The mural will be presented to both the Public Art Advisory Committee and to the Public Realm Advisory Committee before it is hung at the tennis club.
- 2) Bike Rack – An Artist is currently being commissioned to design aesthetically appealing bike racks. The plans will be provided to the Committee for comment prior to the creation of the bike racks.

Some of the proposed locations for the bike racks include: Midland and Steeles; and Hwy 48 and Steeles. It was recommended that a bike rack be placed at Bayview and Steeles, as residents are currently attaching their bikes to the guard rail. The Committee requested that the proposed sites for the bike racks be confirmed.

It was suggested that bike racks be placed at schools and at locations where there is rapid transit. The concept of establishing public private partnerships to raise funds for these types of projects was discussed.

The Committee discussed what it believes is the Public Realm.

Ms. Librecz spoke about the City of Toronto's Clean and Beautiful City initiative. Its five point plan included: (1) design it; (2) build it; (3) green it; (4) sweep it; and (5) celebrate it.

The Committee felt that the public realm should be an extension of one's living space and that it should consider Markham's diversity. Other ideas with respect to improving the public realm included: designing buildings of importance, such as cathedrals and galleries as pieces of public art and designing walking spaces through the eye of the pedestrian. It was noted that public art and public realm are very much related.

Quorum was lost at 6:02 p.m.

3. BOARD AND COMMITTEE ORIENTATION

Ms. Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator, provided a Board and Committee Orientation.

4. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. FUTURE MEETING DATES

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Public Realm Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gallery.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Realm Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:36 p.m.