



MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES FEBRUARY 8, 2012 Meeting No. 1

PRESENT

Members

Paul Cosburn
Glen Harrington
Matthew Korchinski
Peter Pavlovic
Stefania Pflugbeil
Alina Tarbhai
Rhiannon Trail
Kenny Yu
Regional Councillor Gord Landon

REGRETS

Regrets

Staff

Laura Gold, Council and Committee Coordinator, Clerk's Office
Linda Irvine, Manager, Parks & Open Spaces
John Ryerson, Director of Culture
Francine Périnet, Director, Varley Art Gallery
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05 pm with Laura Gold serving as Chair.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

New members were welcomed and introductions were made.

2. BOARD AND COMMITTEE ORIENTATION

Laura Gold, Council and Committee Coordinator, Clerk's Office, made a presentation designed to help familiarize Committee members with their volunteer role on the Committee. Topics included Municipal governance, roles and expectations, Accessibility considerations, Diversity considerations, Privacy & Confidentiality considerations, media relations, procedures & meeting management, and meeting effectiveness.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Following Committee discussion, Regional Councillor Landon asked for nominations for the positions of Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

It was

Moved by Glen Harrington
Seconded by Stefania Pflugbeil

THAT Matthew Korchinski be appointed by unanimous acclamation as Chair of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee.

Carried

It was

Moved by Alina Tarbhai
Seconded by Kenny Yu

THAT Rhiannon Trail be appointed by unanimous acclamation as Vice Chair of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee.

Carried

4. PUBLIC ART ORIENTATION

John Ryerson, Director of Culture, briefly reviewed the history of the committee and its projects. The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee was brought together to provide thoughts on public art purchases and donations. A policy framework had been developed for the committee in 2004; a consultant had been hired to assist the committee with the development of the plan and then it was shaped to Markham's needs.

During this time, the Committee had undertaken community based projects - one major event per year. These were usually held in the summer months; however, since art transcends all seasons, a winter event was held in February 2008 to coincide with the first Family Day holiday in Ontario. Funding for these events was provided by Council.

In 2010 Markham Council unanimously endorsed a visionary Integrated Leisure Master Plan to prioritize the needs of the community for the next 10 years. The plan's recommendations serve as a roadmap for improving Markham's facilities, programs, and services that help make up the public realm – parks, squares, public buildings, right-a-ways, streetscapes and public art.

Now, a more detailed and visionary Municipal Public Art Plan has been developed for Council's approval. Council has also approved funding to hire a coordinator to create a three-year plan and consistent procedures for requests to place public art on publicly owned lands.

Currently, Markham encourages developers to include public art as part of their projects. However, in some municipalities, funds for public art are calculated at 1% of the total capital project costs for City capital budget projects over \$1 million.

Francine Périnet, Director, Varley Art Gallery, reviewed works of art that have been created with the specific intention of being sited or staged in a public space that is accessible to all, or part of the public realm. Topics included the vision of art and how it enriches daily life, the benefits of art such as bringing people together, increasing residents' sense of place and creating an element of pleasure.

A multitude of art opportunities exist in Markham's four villages and in Markham Centre. When Markham considers a significant civic project, public art options should be considered. The following principles, among others, guide the creation and acquisition of public art: accessibility, projects that are sustainable and responsible, or those that promote equity, fairness, and transparency.

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee can be visionary in providing advice to Council and ensuring excellence in Markham's public art program.

5. POMONA MURAL PROJECT

Francine Périnet, Director, Varley Art Gallery, reported that the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee works under the umbrella of the Markham Public Realm Committee, which funds projects to engage the community and enhance its lifestyle. One such project is the Pomona Mural Project at the Pomona Valley Tennis Club in Thornhill.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee will be held on March 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Varley Art Gallery.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.