

Public Realm Advisory Committee
March 26, 2013
Ontario Room

Attendance:

<p><u>Members:</u> Councillor Valerie Burke Hanif Nori, Chair Sadiq Pirani</p> <p><u>Regrets:</u> Councillor Alex Chiu Councillor Logan Kanapathi Omar Bhatti</p>	<p><u>Staff:</u> Karen Boniface, Technical Coordinator Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services John Ryerson, Director of Culture Francine Périnet, Director of the Art Gallery Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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The Public Realm Advisory Committee convened at 5:15 p.m. with Hanif Nori presiding as Chair without quorum.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The approval of the September 26, 2012 Public Realm Advisory Committee minutes was deferred, as there was no quorum.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There was no business arising from the previous meeting.

3. PRESENTATION ON CULTURE PLAN

John Ryerson, Director of Culture, provided a presentation entitled "City of Markham Culture Policy & Plan 2012". It was noted that Markham's Culture Plan is one of several plans developed under Building Markham's Future Together. Some of the highlights of the presentation included the following:

- An overview of some of the challenges Markham faces in reaching its strategic priorities;
- The role of the Culture Department;
- The importance of having a Cultural Plan for Markham;
- The vision for a creative Markham for all;
- A glance at Markham's Culture Plan;
- Actions that will help sustain Markham's culture with the pace of growth;
- Actions that will define culture in Markham's neighbourhoods;
- Actions that integrate with other Markham Plans;

- A vision of what the successful implementation of the Culture Plan will look like and how success can be measured.

Funding for Public Realm and Public Art

Staff advised that the City has allocated \$30K towards community projects to help beautify Markham. These funds will be allocated accordingly: \$15K to public art; and 15K to improving the public realm.

The City first needs to better understand the issues pertaining to improving the public realm. A plan can then be put in place to establish how the \$30K will be used to reach the City's objectives.

Integrating Improvements to the Public Realm with Improvements to Transit

There was a discussion on how improvements to the public realm could be integrated into improvements being made to public transit in Markham. The Committee was encouraged to contact their regional government to make this suggestion. It was also suggested that Regional Councillor Gord Landon be invited to a future meeting to discuss this possibility.

Group Picture of Public Realm Advisory Committee

Sadiq Pirani requested that a group picture of the Committee be taken at the next meeting. The picture will be used to promote the Committee with organizations like the Engineering Association.

4. PUBLIC REALM UPDATE

Karen Boniface reported that \$50K has been set aside in the 2013 capital budget for developing a Markham Public Realm Strategy. The City is in the process of hiring a consultant to develop the strategy. Qualified consultants have demonstrated an interest in this project. Staff were hoping to be able to hire the consultant and start the project as soon as possible.

The Committee was asked if it would be able to attend meetings with the consultant during office hours. Members could possibly attend the meeting via tele-conference. The strategy will be developed by the consultant in consultation with the staff working team and this Committee. Furthermore, the City's strategy will include both long term and short term goals that would help improve Markham's public realm.

The work plan for the establishment of the Public Realm Strategy was circulated to the Committee for information purposes.

Civic Centre

The City is working toward improving the public realm at Civic Centre (e.g. installed round picnic tables and granite benches at Civic Centre and native shrubs and wildflowers around the pond) The goal is to make Civic Centre a more welcoming place.

Yonge Street Project

Councillor Burke provided the following update on the Yonge Street Project:

- Converted three regular YRT bus stops located in the Heritage District on Yonge Street to heritage style bus stops and removed the advertising from the bus stops;
- Winter and summer banners have been created with funds provided by Liberty Development for the posts on Yonge Street in the Heritage District;
- Looking for a grant from the Region to match the remainder of the funds provided by Liberty Development to create a gateway to the Thornhill Heritage District at Yonge and Colborne.

5. PUBLIC ART UPDATE

Corinna Ghazhavi, Public Art Coordinator, provided the following public art update:

PAN AM SITE

There is a desire for a significant public art work to be installed at the PAN AM site and is currently under discussion. The public art selected should leave a legacy of the games.

Cornell Community Centre

The City is currently obtaining proposals from artists for a public artwork for the new Cornell Community Centre. The goal is to have the artwork installed by the end of September 2013.

South East Markham Community Centre

The City is integrating public art at the new South East Community Centre.

Lecture Series

The first public realm/public art lecture series will be held in June and a second lecture will be held in the fall. Staff were hoping to have speakers who could discuss public realm, public art and design for the June speaker series. The first lecture could serve as a brainstorming type of exercise.

Henderson Bridge

The artist team will soon be ready to present their plans for the Henderson Bridge. The plans will be reviewed by Francine Perinet, Corrine Ghaznavi and Councillor Burke.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

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7. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Realm Advisory Committee will be held on May 22, 2013 at 3:30 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Realm Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:35 p.m.