



## **PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**5:00 p.m. – Thursday, April 4, 2013**  
**Committee Room No. 2 at City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Laura Moodie, Chair	- Arts Professional
Gabriela Diaconu	- Artist of Recognized Standing
Jacqueline Dionne	- Arts Professional, Vice Chair
Ted Drabyk	- Arts Commission Representative
Councillor Bill Harper	- Council Representative (departed at 5:55 pm)
Peter Lojewski	- Community Member
Carolyn McLaughlin	- Artist of Recognized Standing
Lynne Probyn	- Community Member at Large
Eric Pattison	- Urban Designer (departed at 6:28 pm)
Paul Rodham	- Architect

#### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Patrick O'Shaughnessy	- Urban Designer
Ingrid Tamboline	- Arts Professional
Gisela Woldenga	- Other Arts Professional

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Greg Magirescu	- Manager, Arts and Cultural Development
Sloane Elphinstone	- City Recreation Programmer
Terry Dunlop	- Recording Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

### **1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Public art sites – New Business, as item 6.2

## 2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 2.1 Adoption of the Minutes March 14, 2013

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the March 14, 2013 minutes be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

## 4.0 PRESENTATION

No items.

## 5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 5.1 PAAC Terms of Reference regarding the selection of muralists and Development Services

**Procedural Note:** Consideration of this item was combined with following item #7.2 - Mural Policy and Guidelines & Mural Application Form

Greg Magirescu, Manager, Arts & Cultural Development, reported back arising from a request at the last meeting relative to the PAAC Terms of Reference regarding the selection of muralists and Development Services involvement. A muralist from Vancouver was commissioned to complete a wall painting on the pump station located near the SkyTrain along Brunette Avenue. The pump station was a frequent target of graffiti and the Engineering Department wished to cover the unsightly walls in order to deter further defacement. Selection of the Muralist was concluded prior to the policy review by PAAC in view of the short timeline given by the Engineering Department and budget availability to complete the mural. Selection of the artist was carried out by the Development Services Department. The Engineering Department established a budget of \$5,000 for the project (in accordance with current City policy, staff is permitted to award contracts directly for projects under \$10,000).

Committee input and guidance was sought on the level and point at which staff should refer such projects for consideration either by the committee and/or Council.

#### **Discussion:**

- In response to a question regarding application of similar guidelines to those used for 'wrapping" of electrical boxes with artwork, Mr. Magirescu advised that the City had provided funds for the associated material costs and there was an open call for artists, who were unpaid.

- The policy referenced in following item #7.2 is outdated and does not reflect city-initiated projects such as the pump house on Brunette Avenue.
- Committee comments included suggestions that staff should not be in the position of having to make judgment calls and projects such as the Brunette pump house mural should first be brought to the committee for consideration.
- In response to a question regarding the policy relative to banners, Mr. Magirescu advised that currently, they are not considered as public art; most banners are usually commissioned by organizations such as the Business Improvement Associations, retail groups, etc. There is a design vetting process through the Development Services Department and the City provides the brackets for mounting the banners.
- A question was raised regarding maintenance and conservation of public art. Mr. Magirescu advised that the matter is partially addressed in the Public Art Fund policy in terms of researchers but there is no reference to maintenance and cleaning; some artists' agreements cover maintenance and conservation of specific projects. Although substances are available that could be applied to cover and protect murals, they are quite costly; however, once murals are created, there is usually a tacit understanding among taggers to not deface the artwork.
- A committee member suggested possible outreach to taggers to create their own murals and artworks.
- The City is moving from an anti-graffiti program to a public arts initiative and this needs to be addressed in guidelines.
- Regarding artwork and murals on private buildings and structures, Mr. Magirescu advised that Development Services has a vetting process (a fee of \$50 is levied); however, the policy needs to be revisited and a structure and method for responding to business should be explored.
- There was discussion of a possible mural project that envisages covering the blank concrete retaining wall along Front Street between the rail trestle and the East Columbia Street junction. The railway company has expressed an interest in supporting the project, which might involve local artists and citizens in creating what would likely be the longest mural in Canada. A project manager would have to be engaged to coordinate artists and volunteers in what would be a complex project.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT staff be requested to draft the first in a series of policies and guidelines that will address issues of thresholds, costs, location, and size of murals and artwork; and*

*THAT the draft be distributed to the committee for consideration and response.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion.

Councillor Harper departed the meeting at 5:55 pm

## **5.2 Biennale update**

Greg Magirescu, Manager, Arts & Cultural Development, advised that Barry Mowat and Marian Bloom were scheduled to conduct a Council workshop on April 22 to inform on details of the Biennale. Recommendations would not be sought, rather direction on the City's potential participation would be explored. It was hoped to gain a sense of Council's possible concerns and priorities.

Mr. Magirescu also advised of a recent meeting with Marcello Dantas, a curator from Brazil. The committee was shown illustrated examples of public art that uses everyday items and structures in unusual ways. Mr. Dantas was impressed with the great sense of movement in the city, especially movement along the river and railway tracks, which could be reflected in possible large, eye-catching installations public artworks that would engage and jar the viewer.

### **Discussion:**

- There needs to be more conversation around a plan and rationale of what public art should aim to accomplish in the city over the next 5-10 years, rather than a series of *ad hoc* policies.
- Perhaps some *ad hoc* projects will lead to development of a strategic plan? The committee might wish to consider a facilitated process and/or workshop where ideas, comments and proposals could be collected and ranked.

It was the consensus of the members present that the next meeting be devoted to a workshop, possibly with a staff facilitator and involving other departments, to explore potential public art projects and development of a strategic plan.

## **5.3 "Wait For Me, Daddy" update**

Greg Magirescu, Manager, Arts & Cultural Development, advised that an artist has now been selected for the memorial project; however, the individual could not be disclosed until Council was formally notified at its next meeting. A citizen group vetted 15 submissions that were narrowed to a choice of five projects. These were then submitted to the Mayor's Task Force for consideration until there was a final consensus.

## **5.4 Public Art Reserve Fund update**

Mr. Magirescu advised there was no further update at this time and that the relative bylaw had yet to proceed to more readings by Council.

## 6.0 NEW BUSINESS

### 6.1 Public Art Strategic Plan

This item was addressed by the consensus of the committee as discussed in foregoing item #5.2 – Biennale. Staff was asked to arrange a workshop session at the next meeting.

### 6.2 Public Art sites

A committee member proposed that Public Art sites be a regular agenda item with updates and a list of sites under consideration. Sloane Elphinstone is in the process of creating a map of potential sites, based on photographs and information submitted by a sub-group tasked with research of city-owned properties.

Eric Pattison departed at 6:28 pm

## 7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

### 7.1 2013 March 14 PAAC Recommendations

Greg Magirescu, Manager, Arts & Cultural Development, distributed copies of the finalised wording of recommendations to be submitted to Council, relative to the St. Mary's Elementary School site. The recommendations now read as follows:

- **THAT** *the Public Art Advisory Committee recommends that no funds from the Public Art Reserve Fund be allocated to the St. Mary's Elementary School site fence project until it is determined that the project is defined as a public art as per the City's Public Art Policy.*
- **THAT** *the Public Art Advisory Committee recommends that any matters regarding aesthetics or design, as it pertains to commemorating the site heritage for the St. Mary's Elementary School site, be referred to the Community Heritage Commission for consideration.*

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

**THAT** *the Public Art Advisory Committee accept and endorse the revised wording of recommendations to Council pertaining to the St. Mary's Elementary School site.*

t **CARRIED.**

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion.

## **7.2 Mural Policy and Guidelines & Mural Application Form**

Consideration of this item was combined with foregoing item #5.1 - PAAC Terms of Reference regarding the selection of muralists and Development Services

## **8.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Tour of Public Art Sites**

With the onset of longer daylight hours, Sloane Elphinstone, City Recreation Programmer, canvassed members regarding a previously planned tour of North Shore municipal public art sites. Following discussion, the members present agreed to schedule the tour on Thursday, May 30, from 5 – 9 pm. Ms. Elphinstone undertook to distribute a map of the proposed tour for the benefit of members who might need to join the group directly from work or other appointments.

### **8.2 New Publication**

For information, Chair Laura Moodie referred to a newly circulated publication title the *New Wester*, which prominently featured a piece of new public art in Queensborough.

## **9.0 NEXT MEETING**

5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2013 in Committee Room No. 2 – City Hall

## **10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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**Laura Moodie**  
Chair

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**Terry Dunlop**  
Recording Clerk