

Minutes: Public Art Committee



MEETING DATE: June 5, 2014 - REVISED
MEETING TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Town Hall, Committee Room
PREPARED BY: Karen Hilgendorf,
Executive Assistant

A. Call to Order

Chair Barb Hector called the meeting to order with all members in attendance.

▪ **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Adriene Venninger Seconded by: Peter Tollefsen

THAT the Agenda of June 5, 2014 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda. Carried.

▪ **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

▪ **Previous Minutes**

Moved by: Peter Tollefsen Seconded by: Adriene Venninger

THAT the Public Art Committee minutes of April 4, be adopted as circulated, including any revisions to be made. Carried

B. Deputations/Presentations

There were no deputations or presentations.

C. Correspondence

C.1 Public Art Donation – Memo from Shawn Postma re Istvan Lendvay Letter

The committee discussed the email from Shawn Postma (Planning Department) noting Mr. Lendvay's offer to donate a piece of his art to the Town's permanent collection. (The committee had deferred discussion to the June meeting as a meeting was not held in May due to the MAP Exhibit and Art Appreciation event.) The Committee acknowledged that while grateful and appreciative of the kind offer, we are unable to accept the donation as the policy was revised a few years ago to decline further donations of art for the permanent collection, for a number of reasons. There is no storage facility for art at Town Hall and the wall space is currently used for the Municipal Art Program. MAP provides an opportunity to

showcase several area artists on an annual basis. The committee acknowledge being pleased to feature one of Mr. Lendvay's pieces on the second floor in the Building/Bylaw department; one of his works was chosen in the jury selection for the 2014-15 MAP program.

It was the committee's recommendation to retain Mr. Lendvay's letter on file and to send a letter of response identifying the current practice. Chair, Barb Hector will sign the letter, on behalf of the Committee.

C.2 Official Plan Review – Response to committee letter of November 28, 2013

Peter referenced the May 22, 2014 response from Jim Dymont, Interim Head of Planning to the Public Art Committee's November 28, 2013 letter providing comments on the Town's proposed draft Official Plan. His letter noted that following a review of the recommended response to comments by the Steering Committee, there are plans to hold a Statutory Open House meeting on June 18, 2014 at Town Hall. Following the Open House, Council will hold a Public Meeting, which is yet to be scheduled. Peter will attend the June 18 Statutory Open House on behalf of the committee.

Discussion noted that various recommended additions were included, with the exception of seeing a reference to a percentage of the value of new development devoted to public art. Peter noted it could be included in the Community Improvement Plan and Site Plan approvals. Peter noted an advantage of referencing in the CIP due to identified boundaries etc. with policies in there about Public Art. The added information could be a guide when something seems wanted and needed in the community. An example would be a certain size project and a certain location such as the core area with policies in the CIP. He noted that already people are taking it upon themselves (Labyrinth) which suggests the interest is there already and it might be a way to grow that.

The potential development of a reserve fund for the arts was also discussed.

D. New and Unfinished Business

D.1 Review & Discussion – May 1, 2014 Artist Appreciation Event

D.2 Review & Discussion – MAP Exhibit – May 1, 2, and 2014

The committee noted the slight change in the Artist Appreciation event noting the greetings from Council and a Committee update followed by the refreshments went very smoothly. The announcement of the dedicated space for a painting in the atrium and the brochure rack to exclusively feature and highlight MAP were noted as favorable additions in 2014.

Adding an actual art exhibit to showcase the incoming art was another welcomed addition as the exhibit created increased public awareness; visitors were interested in what was going on at Town Hall. Tweets about the exhibit also resulted in visits by the members of the public having received additional communication about the event in that format.

Barb noted the loan of 15-20 easels from various artists and due to the workload and transportation time, suggested the committee keep an eye toward sourcing a location for the rental of easels in subsequent years. Adriene noted the use of the cones on loan from the Roads Department added a nice “Town” dimension. They were used rather than a traditional barrier, to protect the art and to act as a method to avoid a potential tripping hazard created by the easel legs.

A suggestion was made to consider the intake of art on Wednesday with the exhibit on the Thursday and Friday. The Friday install following the exhibit worked well, but a suggestion was also made to possibly have the exhibit continue through Monday, particularly if a Council or Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled. The install could then be done on a Tuesday evening, which would avoid the committee/staff installing on a Friday evening after closing.

Discussion also took place regarding the MAP brochure and tweaking the process by which potential artists submit. There were a number of delays this year due to changes as some art initially submitted for consideration in the jury selection, was pulled as it was no longer available for exhibit while other images already supplied to the printer, were also changed out. The changes resulted in two lost days and additional production costs. It was also suggested to include a request that artists submit only images for art that is available should their work/s be selected by the jury to participate. It was also suggested that the communication also identify that the reason for the submission of high quality/resolution images is to ensure the best possible image for reproduction and brochure printing.

D.3 Oates Collection – De-accessioning Project

Discussion included a review of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and finding potentially archived email communication (Lisa Kidd) or filed correspondence from the Oates family about the de-assessment of some of the collection. Karen noted she will research for same, a possible report to Council and a subsequent resolution. Peter noted the other option would be to contact Lynne Oates Pennell with an update and to secure approval to proceed.

Peter noted the research and sorting that has taken place in the file storage area. A letter has been drafted for distribution to each municipality in which a painting will be offered. An image of the painting/s offered will be included for reference and verification by attaching an electronic copy of the “Art by David J. Oates – Wooden Road Bridges of Ontario”. Contact information for the clerk in each municipality is being compiled.

Once interest is expressed by a municipality, it will be necessary to determine a process by which to research and identify the shipping costs to be absorbed by the receiving municipality. An address for the Oates family is needed so that the receiving municipality can forward a letter of thanks, as per the family’s request. We will also maintain an archival trail and a master of where the various paintings will eventually reside.

