

Minutes: Public Art Evaluation Committee

F.6



MEETING DATE: March 1, 2012
MEETING TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Building Meeting Room
PREPARED BY: Lisa Kidd, Recording Secretary

A. Call to Order

- Call to Order by Chair Barbara Hector
- Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Peter Tollefsen

Seconded by: Carol Cooley

- Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None.

- Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2012

Approved with noted revisions.

Moved by: Adriene Veninger

Seconded by: Peter Tollefsen

B. Deputations/Presentations

None.

C. New Business

C.1 Outdoor Art: Principles, Practices, Policies

Committee Chair Barbara Hector welcomed Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation, to the meeting to discuss the matter of outdoor art in public space. Shawn provided an overview of some of the limitations of art in public space and noted that the moving and unsafe parts on the sculptures expose the municipality to risk and may cause harm to children most likely to play on the sculptures. Shawn further noted that some municipalities, when considering outdoor art, consider art which also serves a functional purpose (e.g. a bike rack).

Carol Cooley then questioned Shawn if art sculpture could be placed in municipal gardens. Shawn then replied noting that the same risks would apply. Shawn further noted that the "Boy and Girl" sculpture could be placed in a municipal garden, but the book is loose and welding the book to the sculpture could be problematic given the medium.

Adriene Veninger then noted that given the principles, practices and current policies associated with outdoor art that the ideal concept would be site-specific commissioning of public art.

Shawn Everitt then noted that the parks and trails inventory includes reference to and support of public outdoor art.

Carol Cooley then noted that during the Committee's review of the interim policy, further consultation with the Director of Recreation would be valuable for the Committee to fully understand the rules and regulations impacting the placement and composition of public art in outdoor spaces.

Shawn Everitt then noted that the Committee could serve as a method by which to call for public art for future planning of public spaces.

Adriene Veninger then noted that artists may consider donating art, provided that the municipality cover the cost of material.

Shawn Everitt then noted that as part of park development, the cost of material could be covered through a capital project budget.

Carol Cooley then noted that there is a good relationship between the Public Art Evaluation Committee and the Department of Recreation and there will many opportunities to work together for the benefit of public art.

Adriene Veninger then questioned Shawn if there was a particular piece or site that would be preferred. Shawn Everitt then noted that the old Town Hall site may serve as a future site, noting a well-lit area would be optimal. Shawn Everitt then noted that the Committee may wish to consider the "Boy and Girl" or "Children Climbing Log" as possible art pieces for the site.

Carol Cooley then asked, if the Committee prefers not to use the other pieces currently within the Town's inventory, they should be removed from public space.

Adriene Veninger then thanked Shawn for the information regarding park development and offered the Committee's support in integrating art into public space.

The Committee then dealt with the following resolution:

That the Committee recommend removal of the brass sculptures: "Three Kids on Tree" "Children Climbing Log", "Boy and Girl", "No See, No Hear, No Speak" and "Boys Climbing Mountain" Fountain for continued for safe-keeping and for future consideration.

Moved by: Carol Cooley

Seconded by: Adriene Veninger

C.2 Old Town Hall Retrievals

Lisa explained to the Committee that art and historical plaques were recently retrieved from the old Town Hall. Lisa then informed the Committee that the Curator of the Depot has expressed an interest in safekeeping of the art and plaques at the Depot, with respect to the history of the amalgamation of the Town of Thornbury and the Township of Collingwood.

The Committee then dealt with the following resolution:

THAT the Committee endorse the request of the Curator to keep and maintain the Town Crier Painting and historic plaques, noting that honour has been paid to the amalgamation through the paver stones in the new Town Hall floor.

Moved by: Adriene Veninger

Seconded by: Peter Tollefsen

D. Follow-up Items Decisioned/ Discussed

D.1 MAP Call to Artists

The Committee made minor changes to the timeline for juried art. Revisions to the ad were also made. Two draft contracts will be made in the near future. Peter agreed to draft a notice to staff on the Staff Art Day. Peter will circulate the communiqué in advance of the next meeting of the Committee to review and make a final decision at the next meeting.

D.2. Town Hall Floor Plan

Lisa noted that the presentation of the Town Hall Floor Plan at a recent Senior Management Team (SMT) Meeting was very positive. Carol Cooley then noted that SMT questioned if public art in the gallery and the behind the Council would be considered by the Committee. Carol noted to the Committee that she responded to SMT stating that the Committee discussed this interest and unanimously agreed that the architecture in the gallery was sufficient art and that the South wall of the Chamber should remain as is so as to retain focus on members of Council and the dialogue which takes place in the Council Chamber.

The Committee then also discussed the policy which stated that the Committee will continue to make site recommendations.

Carol then noted that the Committee should consider dealing with the matter of “recognition plaques” in a future Public Art Policy, as the current interim policy is silent on this matter.

D.3 David Oates Collection

The Committee dealt with the following resolution:

That the Committee recommend the following Motion for Council to consider:

WHEREAS Town Council appointed a Public Art Evaluation Committee to make recommendations to Council on the acquisition, safe-keeping, and de-accessioning of public art;

AND WHEREAS the Public Art Evaluation Committee has noted a disproportionate representation of art work from one artist, namely David Oates;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Town request the Public Art Evaluation Committee to, in accordance with the Public Art Policy (Interim), find sites for some of the paintings from the David Oates Collection, which have value for specific municipalities across Ontario, by contacting those that may be interested in permanent safe keeping.

Moved by: Adriene Veninger

Seconded by: Peter Tollefsen

E. Correspondence

E.1 Archived correspondence, dated April 26, 2006 and November 2, 2006 (RE: Rug Hooking)

Received for information.

F. Future Business

F.2 Brochure

Adriene noted that we discussed a brochure at an earlier meeting but the necessity now appears unwarranted as an on-line artist registry would a good tool and more cost-effective. An alternative would be to have a printed copy of the on-line list on hand in the Town for people to use as an interpretive or learning tool.

The Committee agreed that a brochure would be costly, and a more-environmentally friendly and flexible system, such as an on-line artist registry (housed on the Town's website) would be the better approach.

There was no further discussion at this time.

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Peter Tollefsen

Seconded by: Adriene Veninger

That this meeting does now adjourn at 3:32 p.m. to meet again April 5, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Building Meeting Room, Town Hall, or at the call of the Chair.