

# **Public Art Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Thursday March 20, 2014

4:00pm – 4:45pm Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor St. Catharines City Hall

**Present:** Lesley Bell (Chair), Marcie Bronson, Councillor Mark Elliott, Sandra Merk, and Michael Zuberec  
**Regrets:** Peter Vietgen  
**Staff:** Rebecca Cann, Scott Ritchie, Jennifer Tupling

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda for Thursday March 20, 2014.

**Moved:** M. Bronson      **Seconded:** S. Merk      **Approved.**

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the meeting minutes from Thursday February 20, 2014.

**Moved:** M. Zuberec      **Seconded:** S. Merk      **Approved.**

### **3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Nothing that is not addressed in the agenda.

### **4. Correspondence**

Nothing at this time.

### **5. Community Public Art Initiatives**

#### **a. Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial**

R. Cann noted that the shortlisted design teams have been publicly announced. She and M. Zuberec shared their experience of the review process. The responses highlighted the fact that many local artists lack the capacity to complete a project of this magnitude. Growing the capacity of the local arts community for public art projects is something that this committee may want to focus on in the future.

R. Cann reported that the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation is supportive of the gravel lands north of the St. Catharines Museum, as the site for the memorial. This site was agreed upon by the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force. The site will be presented for approval in an upcoming report to City Council. Once the report has gone to Council the request for design can be released to the shortlisted designers, approximately April 18 with a deadline of July 18 for submissions. R. Cann also explained that there is a slight issue with regards to the grant that is being investigated further.

**b. Brock University art in the Lower Level**

R. Cann reported that she toured Brock's campus with the City's Commissioner of Operations to look at an artwork that may move downtown, and they then reviewed the spaces around the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine Arts in the lower level for possible sites. She noted there are still many questions about the intent, which she has forwarded to senior staff. M. Elliott noted the matter will be addressed at the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) of the PAC and MIW SFPA. If the artwork that moves downtown remains on Brock University's property, then it will remain in their collection and their responsibility. What pieces may be relocated downtown is not confirmed but it could be more than one. The group noted there is symmetry between the 'Path of Possibilities' and the plans for connectivity in the lower level area. Some discussion on the appropriateness to downtown of the two works took place. M. Elliott explained that it is part of Brock's priorities to have public art on their campuses.

**Action:** R. Cann will offer the committee's assistance to Brock and the JEC.

**6. Public Art Initiatives**

**a. City Hall Exhibits**

**i. Fabric/ation**

The jury met March 19<sup>th</sup> and selected works for the upcoming exhibition. They agreed the response to the call was marvelous with diverse pieces from the community. One issue that added to the difficulty of selection was the fact that exhibition space at City Hall is now less than it has been in previous years. This is a matter for future discussion.

**b. Centennial Gardens – Artist in Residence concept**

Staff shared their idea for a possible Artist in Residence program in Centennial Gardens and shared sample materials from the City of Kitchener's program. They proposed two options for the first year; have a pilot year with a pre-selected St. Catharines artist or release a call for the program. The committee was supportive of the concept of a pilot year but agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

**Action:** Staff will source more information for the next meeting and draft a more detailed outline for the program.

**7. Art Collection**

**a. Johansson's Bar**

R. Cann will provide a report to the committee at the next meeting.

**b. Twinning Artwork Donation**

All scores have been submitted and no members identified the work as a priority for the collection, as per the Ratings System within the Public Art Policy.

**Motion:** respectfully, that 'Sunset over West Port of Spain' by Reah Lee Sing does not meet the scope of the Civic Art Collection; and that the work be considered a personal gift to the Mayor.

**Moved:** S. Merk

**Seconded:** L. Bell

**Approved.**

**8. Other Business**

Nothing at this time.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of Thursday March 20, 2014.

**Moved:** S. Merk

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 4:55 pm

**Next Meeting:** Thursday April 17, 2014 at 5pm following the opening of **Fabric/ation**, the juried exhibition.