



MINUTES
TM THOMSON ART GALLERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL – 808 2nd AVENUE EAST
JANUARY 27, 2021 – 2:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor John Tamming, Chair
Councillor Travis Dodd, Vice Chair, via WebEx
Tom Burri, via WebEx
Trevor Falk, via WebEx
Ann Keeling, via WebEx
Mary Anne Alton, via WebEx
Megan Celhoffer, via WebEx

**MEMBERS
ABSENT/REGRETS:** Neil Devlin

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator, TTAG
Kim Skene, Operations Coordinator, TTAG

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tamming called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- a. Chair Tamming Re: Photography and Appraisal Project Update
- b. Chair Tamming Re: Outgoing Advisory Committee Members

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

4. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no deputations or presentations.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- a. Minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on December 1, 2020.

"THAT the minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting held on December 1, 2020 as printed be adopted."

Carried.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions submitted by the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items for which direction was required.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

- a. Report AG-21-001 from Director and Chief Curator Re: Tom Thomson Art Gallery Update - January 2021

The Director provided an overview of her update report.

The gallery's digital portal has received positive feedback from virtual visitors, and has been featured in local media, as well as in media outlets from outside the region. While done with a very small budget, developing digital strategies could be enhanced with proper equipment to which end, the Gallery is applying for funding through an RT07 grant.

The gallery team is working on developing scenarios for re-opening based on when the current COVID-19 lockdown is lifted.

The Director has been using resources and strategies from the Canadian Art Museum Directors Organization and other sector organizations to help staff stay connected, productive, and motivated during the COVID-19 lockdown and working from home. Staff also have weekly team check-ins, staff meetings, and smaller group meetings.

The Director is aiming to have a draft of the Strategic Plan prepared for the Advisory Committee at the March 3, 2021 meeting for feedback. Once finalized the Strategic Plan will be accessible on the gallery's website.

Moved by Member Burri

AG-210127-002

“THAT in consideration of staff report AG-21-001 respecting Tom Thomson Art Gallery – January 2021 update, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receives the report for information purposes.”

Carried.

- b. Report AG-21-002 from Director and Chief Curator Re: Establishing an Ad Hoc Committee of Council to Explore the Expansion of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery

The Director gave an overview of her report recommending the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee of City Council to create an expansion plan for the current gallery facility, and reviewed her presentation “Tom Thomson Art Gallery Facility Challenges 2021”.

An expansion of the gallery facility is essential as the facility has reached a critical state due to aging infrastructure, a growing art collection and a national status that demands suitable space for display, programming, innovation and staff, and is necessary for the gallery to continue growing as a cultural cornerstone for both Owen Sound and the larger Grey-Bruce area.

The Director participated in a webinar by ArtsBuild Ontario titled “Building/Renovating Create Spaces: Concept, Feasibility & Design” and will share resources from this webinar with the Advisory Committee, as it contains information relevant to any plan to be developed by the proposed Facility Expansion Ad Hoc Committee.

The Advisory Committee discussed the ramifications of the facility challenges illustrated in the presentation attached to the report, and especially noted the working conditions of staff and the inability for the gallery to receive significant art donations in its current state.

The Advisory Committee agreed that the gallery facility is in critical need of expansion and updating.

The Advisory Committee specified that the mandate of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Facility Expansion Ad Hoc Committee would be the development and implementation of an “expansion plan” for the gallery facility (not the oversight of an expansion project) and asked that the draft Terms of Reference be amended to reflect this clarification.

Additionally, the Advisory Committee clarified that the mandate of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Facility Expansion Ad Hoc Committee would be met once the “expansion plan” was complete, (not the facility

expansion itself) anticipating that the expansion plan development would take approximately 18 months, and would be completed by the end of the current City Council's term in September 2022. The Committee asked that the draft Terms of Reference be amended to reflect this timeline for the development of the expansion plan, and remove reference to any timeline for the actual expansion project.

Moved by Member Dodd

AG-210127-003

"THAT in consideration of staff report AG-21-002 respecting Tom Thomson Art Gallery Facility Expansion Ad Hoc Committee, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Board and Committee By-law to establish an Art Gallery Expansion Ad Hoc Committee as outlined in the amended terms of reference."

Carried.

9. REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

- a. Verbal Report from the Chair of the Volunteer and Membership Sub-Committee

Member Celhoffer, Chair of the Volunteer and Membership Sub-Committees reported that in light of the COVID-19 pandemic there is an entirely new landscape and the membership group will need to develop and bring forward new plans membership for the gallery. The portal needs to be pitched to everyone as a way to engage with the gallery, especially with lockdown restrictions and even moving forward once these restrictions are lifted.

Moved by Member Alton

AG-210127-004

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided January 27, 2021, from Member Celhoffer, Chair of the Membership and Volunteer Sub-Committees, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

- b. Verbal Report from the Chair of the Fundraising Sub-Committee

Member Keeling presented the report from the Calendar Working Group.

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Calendar sales are close to \$21,000 including the generous donation made by Tom and Edan Burri to support the project. 968 calendars were sold, and there are still proceeds to come in for 70 committed sales. There has been a great response from 25+ community retail locations throughout the region. The calendar campaign is projected to bring in a profit of \$18,000 for the gallery.

There have been 30 of the complimentary memberships redeemed thus far.

Moved by Member Burri

AG-210127-005

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided January 27, 2021, from Member Keeling, Lead of the Calendar Working Group, as part of the Fundraising Sub-Committee, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

10. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no postponed matters.

11. MATTERS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no matters for which notice was previously given.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

a. Chair Tamming Re: Photography and Appraisal Project Update

The Director stated that there would be full update on the Appraisal and Photography Project funded by the Tom Thomson Art Foundation in her March report.

b. Chair Tamming Re: Outgoing Advisory Committee Members

Chair Tamming thanked Member Falk and Member Keeling for their service to their community and to the gallery as they end their terms on the Advisory Committee. The Chair also noted that Councillor Dodd would be leaving the Advisory Committee and that Councillor Thomas would be joining the committee for the next term. The Advisory Committee will welcome one new public member in March, artist Connie Maconaghie, and the Committee was reminded that there is one vacancy on the Advisory Committee if any members have contacts who might be interested.

13. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There were no correspondence items for information purposes.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Tamming adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.