



Minutes

Tom Thomson Art Gallery Facility Expansion Ad Hoc Committee

June 23, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Member Tom Burri
Councillor Travis Dodd
Member Harry Marshall
Deputy Mayor Brian O'Leary
Councillor Richard Thomas

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Councillor Marion Koepke

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator, TTAG
Kristan Shrider, Senior Manager of Property and Parks and Open Space
Kim Skene, Operations Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Recording Secretary called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Recording Secretary opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Facility Expansion Ad Hoc Committee.

Deputy Mayor O'Leary nominated Councillor Thomas for Committee Chair.
Councillor Thomas accepted the nomination and agreed to stand as nominated.

There were no other nominations for Committee Chair.

Councillor Thomas was acclaimed Committee Chair.

Chair Thomas continued to preside over the meeting.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Chair Thomas opened the floor for nominations for position of Vice Chair of the Facility Expansion Ad Hoc Committee.

Councillor Dodd nominated Deputy Mayor O'Leary for Committee Vice-Chair. Deputy Mayor O'Leary accepted the nomination and agreed to stand as nominated.

There were no other nominations for Committee Vice-Chair.

Deputy Mayor O'Leary was acclaimed Committee Vice-Chair.

4. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The Recording Secretary provided an introductory Power Point presentation to Committee Members that reviewed the mandate of the Committee, Committee policies and procedures including the Code of Conduct.

7. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no deputations or presentations.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

10.a Report AG-21-008 from Director and Chief Curator Re: Facility Expansion Priorities

The Director provided an overview of her report citing the priorities to be considered with respect to a facility expansion: lack of professional collection storage, the inability to receive future donations or grow the collection; lack of office space for staff; limited permanent exhibition spaces for the collection; lack of flexible spaces for programming and events; limited accessibility and outdated accessibility features; lack of street presence identifying the Tom Thomson Art Gallery as one of the most important art galleries in Ontario and Canada.

The Committee inquired about some short-term solutions regarding accessibility issues and staff workspaces. The Senior Manager of Property cited recent reconfiguration of the former studio space into staff workspaces to address

Health and Safety concerns for staff workspaces. However, other accessibility issues such as the concrete ramp, concrete front steps, and the passenger lift are bigger ticket items.

The Director noted that the HVAC system was nearing end of life and will require replacement. She explained that maintaining a stable environment is critical for the proper care of the art collection and for borrowing art works from other institutions.

The Director stated that an environmental study would need to be completed to assess any and all environmental risks to the building and the collection.

The Senior Manager of Property indicated that the larger, more expensive items needed to maintain the current building - HVAC, building envelope, etc., - are part of a 10-year capital forecast. The Committee could use this information to weigh against the costs of an expansion.

The City Manager suggested that the Committee look at each of the critical priorities related to the current facility as cited in the Director's report, and discuss each of those priorities as a unit, bringing in professionals to provide sector expertise.

The Director added that professional, sector consultation will be required to provide much of the technical information and specific options that the Committee will require to determine next steps.

The Committee determined to: look at all options of expansion of current site, as well as new building sites; review current square-footage and footprint of the Gallery, as well as past expansion plans, in addition to future needs and growth.

The City Manager stated that City staff have been proactive in investigating grants and funding streams for an expansion of the Gallery, with ongoing opportunities available. The Director noted that many grant applications will require specific reports, that will necessitate professional consultation.

The Committee also determined that meetings would need to be more frequent to meet its mandate by fall 2022.

AG-210623-001

Moved by Deputy Mayor O'Leary

“THAT in consideration of Staff Report AG-21-008 respecting Facility Expansion Priorities, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Facility Expansion Ad Hoc Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes.”

Carried.

11. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

12. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

13. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There were no correspondence items presented for information.

14. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

16. NEXT MEETING

The Committee determined that the next two meetings of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Facility Expansion Ad Hoc Committee will be:

Monday, July 5, 2021, at 2 p.m. in Council Chambers

Monday, July 26, 2021, at 2 p.m. in Council Chambers

17. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.