



**Minutes**

**Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee**

**July 6, 2022, 2:00 p.m.**

**City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers**

**MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Chair Richard Thomas  
Member Tom Burri  
Member Megan Celhoffer  
Member Constance Maconaghie  
Member Peter Tovell  
Member David Taylor

**MEMBERS**

**ABSENT/REGRETS:** Councillor John Tamming  
Member Mary Anne Alton

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

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

There was no additional business.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

4.a Minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on May 4, 2022

AG-220706-001

Moved by Member Tovell

**"THAT the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on May 4, 2022."**

Carried.

**5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

There were no deputations or presentations.

**6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions from the public.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED**

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

**8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF**

**8.a Report AG-22-005 from the Director and Chief Curator Re: July Update Report**

The Director introduced her update report by recognizing the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gallery and reflecting on the origins, history, and impact of the Gallery within the City, including the Gallery's community-built art collection. She acknowledged the many staff, volunteers, members, artists, board/committee members, and partners who have contributed to the Gallery's evolution since 1967 and emphasized that art matters because it takes on the biggest conversations of our time.

She read a brief excerpt from her essay for the upcoming exhibition Showing 55 that opens on July 23.

*Over the 55 years since 1967, the Gallery has been under the guidance of 10 Directors, each of whom has contributed to the growth and evolution of the Gallery and its collection. Having the opportunity to reflect on the moment of the Gallery's arrival on the scene during a complex time-period in Canadian and North American cultural, political, and social history, and the subsequent years of its commitment to representing the visual arts in Canada, is as much privileged as it is interpretive. We can look at the context of the times and the characteristics and proclivities of each gallery Director, Board, or Committee, to try to understand the nature of our acquisitions, but ultimately, we can truly only look to the art itself to find and understand the motivations and ideations of the times in which the pieces were created. Like archeologists, we are inviting visitors to intimately look and sort through layers of time, precedents, styles, and iconographies; to find patterns of thoughts and themes, deviations that marked changes to culture and artistic practices; to gently, or vivaciously, dig out the raw and essential parts of what comprised our community and national interests over the last five decades. Bringing 55 art works, each representing the year that they were created from 1967 to 2022, into a single exhibition creates an unusual and*

*compelling curation that is both creatively dissonant and cumulatively collaborative. The pieces do not just exist as lone specimens, they speak to each other; they reach out through time towards us - to captivate and corroborate, to conspire and conceive of new and old realities.*

The Gallery will hold a fundraising event on August 5, marking Tom Thomson's 145<sup>th</sup> birthday and the Gallery's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The evening will feature custom Thomson-themed cocktails, food from Heat 'n' Eat Meal Co., and entertainment by Summerfolk Youth Discoveries Finalist Jake Corston. She invited Committee Members to join in the evening's celebration and noted that limited tickets are on sale now.

Liz Zetlin approached the OPEN Card Team about the development of a pollinator corridor within the City of Owen Sound to encourage and sustain native species of insects, birds, and vegetation. The OPEN Card team was excited by this proposal and will develop a project vision and plan to take to their respective committees/boards in early fall. The concept is that each OPEN Card partner would participate by planning and coordinating the planting of native plants on their sites. Each site will have a selection of native plants that relate to their organization in some way – for example, the Gallery will explore the concept of wild flowers native to Algonquin Park where Thomson canoed and draw on the Thomson painting *Wild Flowers* as a point of connection. The group will seek project funding and expand the initiative through developing talks, activities, and events. A launch event is anticipated to be held in the fall.

As Member Alton, Chair of the Fundraising Sub-Committee was not in attendance, the Director provided the following 2023 Calendar Campaign update on her behalf:

- there are six locations for the summer sales pilot project for the 2023 calendar;
- Fundraising Sub-Committee members are working on a contact list of regional realtors for bulk sales of the 2023 calendar;
- there are more than 24 retail locations committed to autumn sales of the 2023 calendar; and
- the goal for the 2023 Calendar Campaign is \$30,000.

Returning to her July update, the Director noted that the Museum Assistance Program has announced a new grant as part of their Recovery Fund for Heritage Organizations, for which the Gallery is eligible. The application is drafted and will be submitted shortly.

Technical drawings and plans have been completed for the accessibility updates to the Gallery. The request for tender is currently being prepared.

The security surveillance system is being upgraded with new security cameras in the coming months.

Minor kitchen renovations are underway and will provide a lunch space for staff.

The Director noted that while the current upgrades to the facility have addressed several issues, the lack of proper collection storage is at a critical level; the Gallery is close to instituting a moratorium on collecting artwork due to lack of collection space.

The Gallery's extended hours have successfully impacted attendance with increased visitation in the past few weeks.

Responding to a question regarding the status of the pre-feasibility study recommended by the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Facility Expansion Ad Hoc Committee, the Director stated that Council had approved that staff could apply for the funding required for the pre-feasibility study to take place in 2023. The next step will be for staff to apply for grant funding for the study and to secure matching funds to achieve the total required.

AG-220706-002

Moved by Member Taylor

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report AG-22-005 respecting July Update Report, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receive the report as the Director and Chief Curator's update on the Gallery's Programming and Operations for information purposes."**

Carried.

## **9. REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

### **9.a Verbal Report from the Chair of the Membership and Volunteer Sub-Committees**

In the absence of the Chair of the Membership and Volunteer Sub-Committees, there was no verbal report.

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

In the absence of the Chair of the Fundraising Sub-Committee, the Director included a 2023 Calendar Campaign update in her July report update (Item 8.a.).

## **10. MATTERS POSTPONED**

There were no matters postponed.

## **11. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN**

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION**

There were no correspondence items presented for information.

**13. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

There was no additional business.

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motion.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.