



Minutes

Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee

February 1, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Chair Peter Tovell
Vice Chair Tom Burri
Councillor Jon Farmer
Member Tyler Hopkins (via TEAMS)
Member Jane McKerroll
Councillor Melanie Middlebro'
Member David Taylor

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Constance Maconaghie

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator
Kim Skene, Operations Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Recording Secretary called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

As the first Advisory Committee meeting of the new term, a new Chair and Vice Chair are required.

The Recording Secretary opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Member Burri nominated Member Tovell for Chair.

Member Tovell agreed to stand as nominated.

There were no other nominations for Chair.

Member Tovell was acclaimed as Chair of the Advisory Committee.

Chair Tovell presided over the remainder of the meeting.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair Tovell opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee.

Member Farmer nominated Member Burri as Vice Chair.

Member Burri agreed to stand as nominated.

There were no other nominations for Vice Chair.

Member Burri was acclaimed as Vice Chair.

Chair Tovell asked that all members introduce themselves and provide some information on their background and what they envision for the Gallery.

4. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

4.a Councillor Farmer Re: Conflicts with Meeting Schedule

4.b Director and Chief Curator Re: Reporting Process of Advisory Committee to City Council

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.a Minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on November 2, 2022

AG-230201-001

Moved by Member Burri

"THAT the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 2, 2022."

Carried.

7. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.a TTAG Advisory Committee Orientation

The Director reviewed the Gallery's Vision, Mission and Mandate with the Advisory Committee, focusing on the Gallery's strategic plan and work plan.

Responding to a question regarding the financial implications of potential collaborations with community partners, the Director stated that there would be a positive financial impact for the Gallery from these partnerships, and while still in development, these would become part of the Gallery's overall fundraising strategy.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

9.a 2023 TTAG Advisory Committee Sub-Committees Memo from City Clerk

The Recording Secretary provided an overview of the procedural memo from the City Clerk.

The Recording Secretary noted the Director's recommendation that membership for either Sub-Committee need not be determined with an exact number, as both Sub-Committees have various volunteers working on various projects. To that end, it was recommended that at the first meeting of each Sub-Committee, the Sub-Committee reviews its Terms of Reference and brings that document to the Advisory Committee for approval.

AG-230201-002

Moved by Member Burri

“THAT in consideration of the procedural Memo from the City Clerk dated February 1, 2023, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee appoints Member Taylor to the Art Collection Sub-Committee with a term ending January 31, 2024.”

Carried.

AG-230201-003

Moved by Member Taylor

“THAT in consideration of the procedural Memo from the City Clerk dated February 1, 2023, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee appoints Chair Tovell to the Fundraising Sub-Committee with a term ending January 31, 2024.”

Carried.

AG-230201-004

Moved by Councillor Farmer

“THAT in consideration of the procedural Memo from the City Clerk dated February 1, 2023, and following the recommendation of the Director and Chief Curator, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee directs both the Fundraising Sub-Committee and the Art Collection Sub-Committee

to review their terms of reference at their first meeting and bring back those terms of reference to the Advisory Committee for approval.”

Carried.

10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

10.a Report AG-23-003 from the Director and Chief Curator Re: TTAG Advisory Committee February Update

The Director and Chief Curator provided an overview of her report.

The Director highlighted the Gallery's new extended hours, the Accessibility Upgrade Renovations, the OPEN Team collaboration, the development of a new partnership with Coffin Ridge Winery, and the development of a new website.

The Director updated the Advisory Committee on the most recent meeting of the Fundraising Sub-Committee and the Sub-Committee's plan to create four new unique experiences as fundraising events. A new working group is also developing a capital campaign to move forward with the Gallery expansion at the present location.

The Director responded to several questions posed by Advisory Committee Members.

The Director clarified that during the Accessibility Upgrade Renovations, the public will have access to the Gallery via the interior door shared with the Library. There will be wayfinding signage inside and outside. The renovations will be underway from March to August, with the front entranceway to be completed first, before the onset of the summer season.

Regarding the new exhibitions, the Director stated that the media release is scheduled to go out on February 2nd and that the shows run until May 27th.

The Gallery is currently tracking postal codes and will be doing an analysis to gauge visitors' demographics.

People can email a Gallery team member or call the Gallery to book a tour or program.

There is room on the Fundraising Sub-Committee for new members, and if anyone is interested, they should reach out to the Gallery.

Regarding the many works being offered as donations to the Gallery, the Director clarified that there is a Collection Policy currently in place and a set of criteria that must be met before the process of accepting a donation begins. The new Art Collection Sub-Committee will review this process.

It was suggested that when the new website is developed, a map be included that will indicate where artworks from the Gallery's Collection are being exhibited.

When asked about membership to the Gallery, the Director reviewed the OPEN Card membership that was developed last year in conjunction with the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library, the Billy Bishop Museum, and the Marine & Rail Museum, which serves the Owen Sound community and everyone eligible for a Library Card. At the same time, a Supporters Circle program was developed, which is a tiered-giving donor program. Both have been successful for the Gallery.

Regarding the Gallery's potential as a rental venue, the Director stated that the Gallery has had some venue rental events, especially over the holidays, and that these events generate some revenue. Security for the Collection is important during venue rentals, and there needs to be staff allocated to these events. The Gallery does not have a staff member to develop venue rentals at this time.

When asked about Gallery attendance, the Director stated that the Gallery tracks visitors manually and with an electronic counter. Postal codes are recorded manually by staff.

Regarding the number of works within the Collection, and the number of vaults that the Gallery has, the Director responded that the Gallery holds more than 2600 artworks. The Gallery has one designated vault with hanging racks for storing artwork. As the Collection has grown, artworks have taken over more space within the designated Collection Storage area, which is divided into approximately six distinct areas.

The Gallery is insured with a preferred Canadian Museums Association rate. A recent appraisal of the collection substantially increased the Gallery's insurance premiums.

AG-230201-005

Moved by Member Burri

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report AG-23-003 respecting the TTAG Advisory Committee February 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.

11. REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

There were no reports from the Sub-Committees.

12. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

13. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

14. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There were no correspondence items presented for information.

15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

15.a Conflicts with the Meeting Schedule

Councillor Farmer advised that he has some scheduling conflicts with the Committee meeting schedule. The Recording Secretary stated that to resolve the conflicts, there will be some date options forwarded to the Committee Members for consideration.

15.b Reporting Process of Advisory Committee to City Council

The Director asked who would report from the Advisory Committee to City Council. Councillors Farmer and Middlebro' agreed to share that responsibility, taking turns.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Tovell adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.