

# WATERDOWN MEMORIAL PARK PUBLIC ART PROJECT



## JURY REPORT (Draft)

March 4, 2020

### BACKGROUND

This report is an overview of the discussion and decision of the volunteer citizen jury that met on the evening of Tuesday March 3, 2020 to determine which of the five short-listed artists' proposals for a permanent public art work(s) for Waterdown Memorial Park should be implemented. They reviewed the submissions in terms of technical issues, artistic excellence, response to context, public consultation results and the proposals' response to the following competition goal:

*“That the proposed art work(s) enhance and reflect the atmosphere of the park as Waterdown’s “Public Backyard” through an artwork that recognizes the park as a community gathering place and responds to its’ historical and physical context in a way that is playful and interactive.”*

Staff provided an overview of the public consultation results remarking on a slightly higher than usual negative response. They noted that Waterdown is experiencing a large amount of growth and that this may have resulted in residents reacting to larger issues about the changes in the community. They also noted a number of comments that specifically spoke to the park losing green space, having too many new features and multiple service issues in the park (e.g. lighting issues and misinformation about the lack of a spray pad).

## JURY COMMENTS

The jury had a long and difficult discussion of the various aspects of the short-listed proposals. They acknowledge and appreciate positive aspects in each proposal. They find the work “Soundscapes” by Passage Studio to be playful and interactive – an assessment also reflected in public comments. However in light of public concern (identified through consultation) about limited space in the park, the jury is concerned about the fact that implementation of this proposal would require a significantly large area of the park. Moreover the jury feels that the proposal does not reflect the historical context of the park in a meaningful way. Finally, there are some technical concerns around maintenance and accessibility for this work.

The work “Light/Swing” was withdrawn by artist Brandon Vickard due to his success in another call before the jury meeting. “Together” by James Cameron Smith and “Weathervane” by Studio Huizenga are playful works creating gathering and focal places in the park but do not address the historical context of the park. “The Outdoor Room” by Slipper Liu Studio suggests a playful and innovate way to illustrate the historical context of the park but the jury has concerns with the proposed imagery. In addition, these last three proposals were not well received in public consultation. In light of the concerns outlined above, the jury concludes that none of the proposals adequately addresses current community priorities and the context of the park. The jury therefore recommends that the project not proceed.

The jury members share the disappointment of the artists and members of the public who contributed to and supported this project. They specifically extend their thanks to the grade 4 classes at Greenleaf School and to the artists who participated in this call.

They further recommend that if a public art project is to be undertaken for Waterdown Memorial Park in future, a more fulsome analysis of the capacity and future community needs for the park should be undertaken though the development of a Park Master Plan or other similar guiding document in consultation with the community.

Moreover they recommend that, as per the focus group consultation undertaken at the outset of this project, a plaque outlining the heritage context of the park be installed.

Tourism and Culture staff is in agreement with the jury’s conclusions and recommend that the contract not be awarded.

Public art for Waterdown will be revisited as part of an update to the Public Art Master plan in 2022-23.

## **Jurors**

Susan Pennie  
Lyn Lunsted  
Graham McNally  
Magy Olszewski  
Aman El-Duweini  
Laura Marotta  
Eileen Reilly

Waterdown Village BIA  
Flamborough Archives  
Toms and McNally Design/Patrick J McNally Foundation  
M+M Photography  
Citizen (partial attendance)  
Artist, University Lecturer  
City of Hamilton Arts Advisory Commission member

Ken Coit  
Meredith Plant

Facilitator, City of Hamilton, Public Art and Projects  
City of Hamilton, Public Art and Projects



**Tourism and Culture Division  
Planning and Economic Development Department**