



DOORS OPEN MARKHAM 2026 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Event Day: Saturday, September 26, 2026

Virtual Meeting

April 22, 2026

6:30 PM

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**
3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE DOORS OPEN MARKHAM 2026 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 25, 2026**
 - Recommendation
That the Minutes of the Doors Open Markham 2026 Organizing Committee held on March 25, 2026 be adopted.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
 - a) Sites - Send registration forms to the following sites: the Thornhill Village Public Library and the Unionville Curling Club. (Regan)
 - b) Sites - Contact the Railview Model Railway Club about providing model train programming at the Markham train station event site. (Regan)
 - c) Budget - Change the budget line item named "Water" to "Water/Food" to indicate that the expense represents the cost of both water and lunch for volunteers on event day. (Renee/Jing)
 - d) Marketing/Promotions - Produce a draft brochure using the 2025 Doors Open Markham sites to get an estimate for this year. (Vance)
 - e) Marketing/Promotions - Create a QR code for one or two sites as a test project. (Ken and Vance)
 - f) Volunteer Recruitment - Contact the Markham resident, who wishes to volunteer, to advise about the City's process for applying as a volunteer. (Ken)

5. EVENT PLANNING FOR 2026 DOORS OPEN MARKHAM EVENT

a) **Budget** – Renee

b) **Sites** – Regan and All

See Attachment A – Site Confirmation

c) **Displays, activities, etc.**– Regan and All

See Attachment B – Site Programming

d) **Marketing/Promotions** – Vance

e) **Provincial Website** - Regan/Vance

Material for initial sites was uploaded to provincial website by Vance.

f) **City Website** - Vance

g) **Volunteers/Recruitment** – All

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Doors Open Markham Organizing Committee will be held on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026** at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

8. ADJOURNMENT



DOORS OPEN MARKHAM 2026 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Minutes

Virtual Meeting

March 25, 2026

6:30 PM

Attendance

<p><u>Present</u> Ken Steinberg, Chair Dominica Tang, Vice Chair Teresa Kwoon Agatha McPhee Diane Ross Tejinder Sidhu (Heritage Markham Committee) Lei Xia Sheila Zahraei</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Regan Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning Vance Kornobis, Communications Advisor, Corporate Communications Peter Wokral, Senior Heritage Planner Jing Yu, Corporate & Community Events Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u> Bowie Leung Yat Chi Ling Kenneth Ng Councillor Reid McAlpine Regional Councillor Alan Ho Renee Zhang, Manager, Corporate & Community Events</p>
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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Doors Open Markham 2026 Organizing Committee convened at 6:34 PM with Ken Steinberg as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed. Staff were directed to check with the Clerk's Office about whether there is a need to include information about declaring any conflicts of interest.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE DOORS OPEN MARKHAM 2026 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2026

It was

Moved by Diane Ross
Seconded by Agatha McPhee

That the Minutes of the Doors Open Markham 2026 Organizing Committee meeting held on February 25, 2025, be accepted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) Sites – Regan Hutcheson reported that he sent registration forms as directed by the Committee to the following sites: (i) York Region District School Board Museum and Archives in Buttonville, they are waiting for their principal’s approval; (ii) the Wong Dai Sin Temple, they have sent their registration form in; (iii) the Central United Church in Unionville; and (iv) the Stiver Mill third party lessor. He will send a request to the Thornhill Village Public Library to learn if it would like to participate in the 2026 Doors Open Markham event.
- b) Sites – Registration Forms - Regan Hutcheson reported that eight sites have been confirmed: Markham Village Fire Station, Historic Markham Train Station, Markham Museum, York University – Markham Campus, Historic Unionville Train Station, Varley Art Gallery, McKay Art Centre, and Heintzman House. Please see Appendix A.
- c) Marketing/Promotions – Brochure – Vance Kornobis reported that this will be developed when the site locations have been confirmed. He is working with the design team to create a map that can be inserted as a digital copy into the webpage, and then in our brochure, attach a QR code to that, so if someone is still wanting to access a map, they could scan the brochure, so that way we're not using up space in the brochure, and then they could still access that same map.
- a) Marketing/Promotions – QR Code - Ken Steinberg reported that he had conducted some research and Vance Kornobis advised that it should not be a problem to create City-branded QR codes. Ken Steinberg and Vance Kornobis will try to create a QR code for one or two sites as a test project.

ACTION: Send a request to the Thornhill Village Public Library to learn if it would like to participate. (Regan)

ACTION: Produce a draft brochure using the 2025 Doors Open Markham sites to get an estimate for this year. (Vance)

ACTION: Create a QR code for one or two sites as a test project. (Ken and Vance)

5. PLANNING FOR THE 2026 DOORS OPEN MARKHAM EVENT

(a) Budget

Jing Yu advised that there were no updates to report for the 2026 Doors Open Markham event budget. Some expenses have not yet been finalized; an update will be provided at a future meeting. The line item named "Water" will be renamed "Water/Food" to indicate that the expense represents the cost of both water and lunch for volunteers on event day. It was noted that either the Committee's volunteer coordinator or Communications staff would place the order for food; this will be discussed at a future meeting.

ACTION: Change the budget line item named "Water" to "Water/Food" to indicate that the expense represents the cost of both water and lunch for volunteers on event day. (Renee/Jing)

(b) Sites

Regan Hutcheson advised that twelve sites have generally confirmed their participation. The Committee has also approved the Thornhill Village Public Library and walking tours in Thornhill. Regan Hutcheson reviewed the items considered when selecting event sites, i.e. architecturally, historically, culturally significant to the municipality, and not usually open to the general public. He advised that there's no real limit to the number of sites that Markham could host other than the number of volunteers needed to staff the sites. The Committee discussed at length whether the Unionville Curling Club fell outside the scope of Doors Open criteria. In addition, the Railview Model Railway Club has indicated it would like to participate by showing layouts of model trains.

It was

Moved by Ken Steinberg
Seconded by Agatha McPhee

That Staff be requested to send registration forms to the Unionville Curling Club and request that it submit the completed forms if interested in participating in the 2026 Doors Open Marham event.

CARRIED

It was

Moved by Ken Steinberg
Seconded by Sheila Zahraei

That Staff be requested to contact the Railview Model Railway Club about providing model train programming at the Markham Train Station event site.

CARRIED

ACTION: Send registration forms to the Unionville Curling Club and request that it submit the completed forms if interested in participating in the 2026 Doors Open Marham event. (Regan)

ACTION: Contact the Railview Model Railway Club about providing model train programming at the Markham Train Station event site. (Regan)

(c) Displays and Activities

This agenda item is included every year to facilitate discussion about event sites where there might be empty space that could be filled with displays and/or activities to help animate the site. It was suggested that Markham Recreation might be able to create a breakout area for kids to have some fun as well.

(d) Marketing/Promotions

These items will be discussed at future meetings.

(e) Provincial Website and City Website

Regan Hutcheson reminded the Committee that, information about the first three sites must be posted to the provincial website by the end of March. The Committee suggested that the selected sites be dispersed geographically across Markham and possibly include the Wong Dai Sin Temple.

(f) Volunteer recruitment

Regan Hutcheson advised that he had been contacted by provincial Doors Open staff to advise that there was an individual from Markham who wished to volunteer. It was decided that the request would be referred to Ken Steinberg in his capacity as Chair of the Doors Open Markham Committee. He will contact the individual to advise about the City's process for applying as a volunteer.

ACTION: Contact the Markham resident, who wishes to volunteer, to advise about the City's process for applying as a volunteer. (Ken)

6. NEW BUSINESS

Connection with Local Media

The Committee was advised that the Doors Open Markham event is promoted via the city's social channels, leveraging Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or X. In the past, media advisories have also been issued. However, it might be challenging to schedule airtime; Vance Kornobis will investigate possibilities, since the City does have connections with the Chinese media outlets. If an interview is requested, then the Mayor's office traditionally would have first right to consider the interview; if he declines the interview, he would agree to pass it on to the best representative. In the case of the Doors Open Markham committee, the best representative could be either the chair of the committee or the Manager, Heritage Planning as a subject matter expert.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 22, 2026**, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Sheila Zahraei

Seconded by Terea Kwoon

That the Doors Open Markham 2026 Organizing Committee adjourn at 7:55 PM.

CARRIED

APPENDIX A

Sites for 2026

Response regarding Date of Event and Level of Interest

	Sites	Contact	Status
	Markham Village Cluster		
1	Markham Train Station	Dianne More (MVC)	Registration confirmed
2	Markham Fire Station #97	Markian Chorostil, Firefighter	Registration confirmed
3	Markham Museum	Andrea Carpenter, Manager	Registration confirmed
	Unionville Cluster		
1	Varley Gallery	Niamh O'Laoghaire, Director	Registration confirmed
2	McKay Art Centre		Registration confirmed
3	Unionville Train Station		Registration confirmed
	Unionville Curling Club		To be contacted in March/ April.
	Central United Church		Contacted in March.
	Stiver Mill		Contacted in March.
	Thornhill Cluster		
1	Heintzman House	Mark Alsenaar, Community Recreation Manager- West Copied Board- R. Edmison	Registration confirmed
	Thornhill Village Library		To be contacted in March/ April.
	Wong Dai Sin Temple, 378 Steeles Ave. E., Thornhill, Place of Worship		Registration confirmed
	Central Markham		
1	York University, Markham Campus	Shawna Teper	Registration confirmed
	York District School Board Museum and Archives *Buttonville		Interested. Contacted in March.
	Steelcase Art Projects, 200 Steelcase Rd East, Markham		Interested. Not contacted yet

Attachment A – Status of Event Sites

(April 22, 2026 agenda)

Status Chart- as April 16, 2026

Sites for 2026

Response regarding Date of Event and Level of Interest

	Sites	Contact	Status
	Markham Village Cluster (3)		
1	Markham Train Station	Dianne More (president of MVC)	Confirmed
2	Markham Fire Station #97 (Main St Markham)	Markian Chorostil, Firefighter	Confirmed
3	Markham Museum	Felicity Brassard, site contact Andrea Carpenter, Manager	Confirmed
	Unionville Cluster (5)		
1	Varley Gallery	Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director	Confirmed
2	McKay Art Centre (Salem Eckardt House)	Niamh O’Laoghaire	Confirmed
5	Unionville Curling Club	Martin Mui and Racquel Heron	Confirmed
	Central United Church	Rev. Diaz	Pending (they will get back to us in June)
4	Stiver Mill (11am opening)	Minto	Confirmed
3	Unionville Train Station	Jason Vooyo	Confirmed
	Thornhill Cluster (3)		
1	Heintzman House	Mark Alsenaar, Community Recreation Manager- West Copied Board- R. Edmison Diane Ross, DOM Site Contact	Confirmed
	Thornhill Walking Tour	Thornhill Historical Society- Andrew Baldwin (interim president)	Pending (will confirm or not in early May)
3	Thornhill Village Library	Abbas Amarshi, (TVL)	Confirmed
2	Wong Dai Sin Temple, 378 Steeles Ave. E., Thornhill, Place of Worship	Chris Lui	Confirmed
	Central Markham (2)		
1	York University, Markham Campus	Courtney Wiens	Confirmed
2	York District School Board Museum and Archives *Buttonville	Rebekah Mitchell	Confirmed

Attachment B – Programming Event Sites

(April 22, 2026 agenda)

	Sites	Programming	Handout
	Markham Village Cluster (3)		
1	Markham Train Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Model Railway display (not confirmed) - Photo Board 2025 ? 	Yes from 2025
2	Markham Fire Station #97 (Main St Markham)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire safety displays; interaction with fire prevention and public education officers - View firefighting trucks/equipment 	Yes from 2025
3	Markham Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 minute rotating tours of the collection vault and archives - Let by curatorial staff- and will include a special object workshop 	To be updated from 2025
	Unionville Cluster (5)		
1	Varley Gallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - View the Fall Exhibition - Opening Reception 2-4pm 	To be updated
2	McKay Art Centre (Salem Eckardt House)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-guided exploration - Contemporary Art Exhibit - Perhaps staff create photo board of former site prior to Gallery 	Yes from 2025
5	Unionville Curling Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tour of Curling Club with history info and heritage displays - Parking lot curling (pending confirmation) 	Yes from 2025
	Central United Church		To be created
4	Stiver Mill (11am opening)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-guided exploration of main room - Staff could provide a photo board of historic images 	To be updated
3	Unionville Train Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heritage Markham heritage conservation projects display - Train Station Photo Boards from 2025 - Tours by DOM volunteers (would have to prepare speaking notes for each room) 	Yes from 2025
	Thornhill Cluster (3)		
1	Heintzman House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guided tours and brochure - Poster board and photo display 	Yes from 2025
	Thornhill Walking Tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking tour would be the program 	
3	Thornhill Village Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be determined - Staff could prepare a heritage photo board 	To be updated
2	Wong Dai Sin Temple, 378 Steeles Ave. E., Thornhill, Place of Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explanation of Taoist traditions and worship of Chinese deities. 	To be updated
	Central Markham (2)		
1	York University, Markham Campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guided tours by student volunteers - Mini games in Atrium 	Yes from 2025

	Sites	Programming	Handout
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Markerspace and Visual Gaming Lab open for viewing /short demos by staff 	
2	York District School Board Museum and Archives *Buttonville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guided explanation of heritage classroom set up by Archives staff - Explanation of history of public education in York Region (one room schoolhouse) - Try writing on a slate - Outdoor games (weather permitting) 	Yes from 2025

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April 22, 2026
6:30 pm
Electronic Meeting

Pages