



DOORS OPEN MARKHAM ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Virtual Meeting
February 26, 2025
6:30 PM
Minutes**

Attendance

<u>Present</u> Regional Councillor Alan Ho Yuning Chen Richard Huang Teresa Kwon Bowie Leung Agatha McPhee Kenneth Ng Ken Steinberg Dominica Tang <u>Staff</u> Audrey Bouman, Corporate Communications Regan Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator	<u>Regrets</u> Andrew Fuyarchuk Yat Chi Ling Tejinder Sidhu (Heritage Markham Committee) Sheila Zahraei Councillor Reid McAlpine Renee Zhang, Manager, Corporate & Community Events
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1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE DOORS OPEN MARKHAM 2025 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 22, 2025

It was

Moved by Ken Steinberg
Seconded by Agatha McPhee

That the minutes of the Doors Open Markham 2025 Organizing Committee meeting held on January 22, 2025, be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Welcome New Members

New members Yuning Chen, Richard Huang and Teresa Kwon were welcomed to the committee and introductions of all members took place. Sheila Zahraei was not able to attend this meeting and will be welcomed at a future meeting.

Confirmation of Theme Name

The Committee had previously agreed on a theme relating to education in Markham. The Committee discussed possible theme names.

It was

Moved by Ken Steinberg
Seconded by Regional Councillor Alan Ho

That the theme name “Markham’s Learning Landscape” be adopted.

CARRIED

Confirmation of Budget

Regn Hutcheson confirmed that the budget has been set at \$7500.00. The Committee discussed whether to seek sponsorships for the Doors Open Markham event.

Master List of Sites

This topic will be discussed as part of Planning.

5. PLANNING FOR 2025 DOORS OPEN MARKHAM EVENT

- (a) **Theme** – The Committee voted to adopt the theme name “Markham’s Learning Landscape”.

(b) **Sites** – Regan Hutcheson reminded Committee members that the sites being considered are (i) heritage school properties such as former historic schoolhouses, (ii) heritage buildings now in educational uses such as converted heritage buildings, (iii) modern school properties of interest or unique schools, (iv) other properties that may or may not have an educational link but could be open and could help showcase educational themes, and (v) city-owned properties. He then reviewed the list of proposed sites and each site's current status e.g. whether the site has been contacted, has confirmed, is interested, or not willing. He noted among others that:

- the Brown's Corner Schoolhouse has confirmed its participation and wants to help by making displays and allowing the Committee to use its archives of school facilities in York Region, including Markham.
- The Hagerman Schoolhouse in Hagerman's Corners is now The School, a fine dining restaurant; it would not be a site where participants would tour inside, but it might be willing to either be a sponsor because it was a schoolhouse or, if the Committee were to reach out to them, they might agree to provide a set prix fixe luncheon menu that might encourage people to eat lunch and learn about the old school house.
- The Markham Campus of York University has been confirmed, with thanks to Councillor McAlpine. This campus is very interesting: it's one of the top AODA accessible buildings in the province; other features include an indigenous circle and some very high-tech classrooms.
- Other properties such as the Unionville train station, the Markham Village train station, Heitzman House, and the fire station number 97. All of these sites can be linked to educational themes as well because the train stations were used by children to go to school at Markham High School. Sites such as Heinzman House could display some panels featuring the lost schools of Thornhill, so that people could see what used to be in Thornhill.
- Markham Museum is interested in including the schoolhouse at the front of the Museum property (not the entire museum).
- It may be possible to have York Region co-op students assist with research and design of displays.

Regan Hutcheon advised that he has prepared an information page for each site, which details what the site is today and was historically; and other pertinent information about the site including contact information, need for volunteers, and expected programming on event day.

Regan Hutcheson advised that it is a requirement for the Committee to upload information about three sites to the Doors Open Markham website by March 31st. He recommended uploading information about the Buttonville Schoolhouse, the York University building and one other site. That will activate the Doors Open Markham website and allow people to see the first three offerings from the City of Markham.

The Committee discussed including sites such as the Stiver Mill, the Varley Art Gallery, the Mackay House which is part of the art gallery, or the Thornhill Village Branch Library. Committee members saw the Varley Art Gallery an informal learning space and wondered whether the gallery would share its archive to look at the history of informal education in the public sector. The Committee agreed to decide at the March meeting how many sites to present and whether to include the Varley Art Gallery as a site this year.

Regan Hutcheson will use the registration form, distributed to Committee members, to confirm candidate sites.

Please see Appendix A for the list of proposed sites.

(c) Displays and Activities

The Committee discussed ideas for programming for the event sites, including (i) having someone run a schoolroom showing how school used to be and (ii) having panels with interesting facts about Markham's education system between 1900 and the year 2000.

(d) Marketing

Audrey Bouman advised that David Shum will serve as the communications advisor for the Doors Open Markham event on behalf of the City. He will provide an update at the next meeting. Audrey will ask David to send an outline of plans and opportunities that the Committee could think about before the next meeting.

(e) Website

Regan Hutcheson reported that once candidate sites have been confirmed, the site information can be uploaded to the Doors Open Markham website as well as the provincial website.

(f) Volunteer recruitment – The Committee discussed resources needed to support the sites on the day of the event. It was noted that sites which have Community Boards, may provide their own volunteers to showcase their facility. It was felt that, by the next meeting, sites would have registered and indicated their need for volunteers, so there would then be a better understanding of the number of volunteers needed.

(g) Sponsorships

It was noted that the Doors Open provincial organization strongly encourages sponsorships throughout Ontario because many municipalities don't have a budget for this event. In the past, sponsors donated water for the event day or production costs of brochures. For this year, the Committee discussed whether The School (restaurant) might participate, not with a monetary sponsorship, but rather by offering a low-price prix fixe lunch menu so people could eat at the restaurant while learning about the

history of the schoolhouse. It was noted that The School was suggested because it is historic, and one of the most attractive schoolhouses in Markham.

The Committee discussed whether to seek sponsorships; it was agreed that Committee members would think about whether sponsorships are actually needed, and if so, what strategy would be used to pursue them, and be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting. Kenneth Ng will create a public Google folder where Committee members can add their comments and ideas.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) Domenica Tang shared ideas to provide talking points and possibly an audio tour, for volunteers and staff to share with the public. Audio tours of all the sites could reside on the Doors Open Markham website, a QR code could be created for each site tour and the QR code could be provided to people visiting the site. This would allow people to follow along on their devices and get information about the site they're visiting. Domenica Tang and Ken Steinberg will discuss the feasibility with Regan Hutcheson.
- (b) In response to questions, Audrey Bouman advised that, at all City of Markham events, there is posted signage that allows implied consent, meaning that once a person enters the event, they consent to having their photo taken and for those photos to be shared on the Flickr album, or to be used for promotional materials. Ken Steinberg wondered whether pictures could be taken of a person with the event site in the background and then posted on the Flickr album. Audrey Bouman will investigate the logistics of this idea.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None was identified.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Doors Open Markham 2025 Organizing Committee adjourned at 8:15 PM.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF POTENTIAL EVENT SITES as of February 26, 2025

Site ID	Name (Historic)	Status
1	Brown's Corner School House SCHOOL BOARD	Confirmed
2	Cedar Grove Community Centre CITY	Potential/Interested
3	Box Grove Community Centre CITY	Potential/Interested
4	Former Markham High School PRIVATE	Contacted
5	Franklin Street Public School SCHOOL BOARD	
6	German Mills Schoolhouse (SS#2) CITY	Potential/Interested
7	Mount Joy Public Schoolhouse (SS #16) CITY/MARKHAM MUSEUM	Confirmed
8	Colty Corners Schoolhouse (SS#11) (PRIVATE BUSINESS)	
9	Victoria Square Schoolhouse (SS #6) (PRIVATE BUSINESS)	
10	School Section #14 School (SS#14) (PLACE OF WORSHIP)	
11	Hagerman Schoolhouse (SS#18) (PRIVATE RESTAURANT)	
12	Mongolia Schoolhouse (SS#22) (PRIVATE HOME)	Not pursued
13	Milnesville Schoolhouse (SS#19) (PRIVATE HOME)	Not pursued
14	Jonathan Calvert House (Montessori School PRIVATE BUSINESS)	

15	Benjamin Marr House Cornell (Montessori School PRIVATE BUSINESS)	
16	Adam Clendenen House Cornell (Montessori School PRIVATE BUSINESS)	
17	Sinclair Hagerman House (Family Day Care PRIVATE BUSINESS)	
18	York University- Markham Campus Markham Centre YORK U	Confirmed
19	Bill Crothers Sport High School Markham Centre SCHOOL BOARD	
20	Unionville High School Unionville- Markham Centre School Board	
21	Unionville Historic Station CITY Community Centre	Contacted
22	Markham Village Historic Station CITY, Community Centre/ GO Station	Confirmed
23	Heintzman House CITY	Contacted
24	Markham Fire Station 97 CITY	Contacted
25	Markham Museum (Schoolhouse only)	Confirmed