



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
March 21, 2019**

Attendance

Members

Kevin Boon, Chair
Ashok Bangia
Phil Ling
Karl Lyew, Immediate Past Chair
Nadine Pinto
Natasha Welch

Regrets

Alimasi Chen
Karl Fernandes
Christopher Ford, Vice Chair
Elvis Nurse
Diane Ross
Regional Councillor Jack Heath

Council

Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guests

Stewart Cumner, Resident
Ariana Lim, Student
Rumaisha Qadar, Student
Margaret Muller, Teacher

Staff

Jacqueline Tung, Community Engagement
Assistant
Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Coordinator
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:12 PM with Kevin Boon presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was agreed to remove item 5A Board/Committee Information Night since the debrief occurred at the previous meeting. The agenda was accepted as amended.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 21, 2019

It was

Moved by Nadine Pinto
Seconded by Ashok Bangia

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on February 21, 2019 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

- Regional Councillor Joe Li reported that:
 - Markham is maintaining the lowest average tax increase over 13 years among other GTA communities
 - The Provincial Government may be considering revisions to the current regional structure as part of its regional government review
 - A local developer has shown interest in the underground waste management system; Markham may implement a pilot project at one apartment building.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Kevin Boon reviewed and updated the action items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

Jacqueline Tung reviewed planning details of the event. She confirmed that the following exhibitors will participate:

- York Region
- Animal Advisory Committee
- Pitch it Green
- Markham Library
- Markham Waste
- Markham Water
- Markham Forestry
- Face painting
- Speaking of Wildlife
- Scales
- Plug n Drive

- York University

In addition, the following groups have been invited to participate:

- Markham Mayor Youth Council (interested in participating, activity TBD)
- Markham Teen Arts Council (not confirmed)
- Student exhibit (invited 4 schools)
- Cycling committee (not invited yet)
- Tesla, thanks to a referral from Phil Ling

It was also suggested to invite Drawdown, a broad coalition of researchers, scientists, policy makers, business leaders and activists to assemble and present the best available information on climate solutions to reverse global warming.

Three schools have confirmed their participation: San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic Elementary School, Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School, and Bur Oak Secondary School; each school is working on its projects. There is potential to invite a fourth school. Mayor Scarpitti prefers to award the certificates of participation to the students at the event; it is recommended that the students pose for photos with Mayor Scarpitti during the event and the certificates will be awarded at the conclusion.

Ms. Tung displayed the layout of the Remington Centre, the venue for the event, and showed the proposed set up of booths and tables. The animals would be housed in covered tents outside. Committee members and student guests agreed with the proposed layout.

Ms. Tung reviewed promotion and marketing initiative, such as buck slips, social media, floor decals, mobile signs, radio, newspaper articles, news ads, other events, and local online calendars. She has prepared a pdf for distribution at schools, and a social media image for personal networks.

Ms. Tung reviewed the proposed schedule for the day:

8:30-9:30 am – Exhibitors, volunteers, event staff start to arrive

9:00 am – Volunteer briefing

10:00 am – Event starts

10:00 am - 4:00pm – various activities for the whole family, including a sustainability fair showcasing environmental projects, free carousel rides, electric vehicle test driving, passport activity, animal interactions, eco-craft zone

11:00 am – 4:00 pm – Face to Face painting

Tentative timing regarding speeches

12:30pm – Mayor arrives

1:30pm – MC (Kevin Boom, MEAC) to give welcome

1:35pm – MC to introduce to Mayor Scarpitti

1:36pm – Remarks by Mayor Scarpitti

1:46pm – MC to introduce Ward 3 Councillor McAlpine

1:47pm – Remarks by Ward 3 Councillor McAlpine

1:52pm – MC to introduce representative from Remington Development Corp

1:53pm – Remarks by Remington Development Corp. representative

1:58pm – Closing remarks by MC

2:00pm – Speakers end

Ms. Tung advised that there would be a need for volunteers, and asked that MEAC organize these arrangements. It is hoped that student guests at this meeting can assist in recruiting other students as volunteers. Students would receive credit toward their required number of volunteer hours. It was suggested that volunteers could work the full day, half day, or a few hours. The Subcommittee Co-chairs will draft a schedule.

Chair Kevin Boon reported that he and Ashok Bangia have been visiting businesses located in the Remington Centre to solicit items that might be used as prizes. Nadine Pinto and Natasha Welch advised that they are soliciting items from other businesses located elsewhere in Markham. For those businesses which do provide such donations, MEAC will highlight their sustainability initiatives in a slide show to run at the event. Stewart Cumner volunteered to create the slide show.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Regional Councillor Joe Li advised that he will be appointed Chair of the Environmental Issues Committee.
- Markham's next waste reduction initiative will address single-use plastics; the City hopes to recruit a partner to assist with a pilot project.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Karl Lyew
Seconded by	Phil Ling

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:00 PM.

CARRIED