



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
April 18 2019**

Attendance

Members

Kevin Boon, Chair
Christopher Ford, Vice Chair
Ashok Bangia
Karl Lyew, Immediate Past Chair
Nadine Pinto
Diane Ross
Natasha Welch

Regrets

Alimasi Chen
Karl Fernandes
Phil Ling
Elvis Nurse

Council

Regional Councillor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guests

Martin Bush, Drawdown
Lloyd Helferty, Drawdown
Ariana Lim, Student
Rumaisha Qadar, Student

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 7:06 PM with Kevin Boon presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was agreed to add the following items to Other Business:

- Hiatus of Alimasi Chen
- York Region EAC meeting

The agenda was accepted as amended.

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

It was

Moved by Natasha Welch
Seconded by Diane Ross

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on March 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 encouraging personal gardens. Jacqueline Tung advised that a limited number of community garden plots are available for rental in the Kirkham Community Gardens @\$125 for the season.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Kevin Boon reviewed and updated the action items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. DRAWDOWN

Lloyd Helferty presented information about Project Drawdown, founded by author and environmentalist, Paul Hawken. It is a scientifically based plan to implement the top 80 solutions to reverse global warming by 2050. The Project Drawdown book sets out the solutions, the math and the economics of how society can actually do this.

Drawdown is the point in time when the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have peaked and begin to decline on a year to year basis. Project Drawdown is a coalition of over 200 contributors from over 22 countries. The Drawdown mandate is to map, measure and model substantive, technological, ecological, and behavioral solutions and analyze their potential to reduce and draw down greenhouse gases, include carbon dioxide, methane, fluorinated gases and several others all with different global warming impacts, over a 30 year period.

The Drawdown project focused on existing solutions with sufficient data available for global modelling. The solutions were then evaluated based on their current performance, scalability, economic viability, potential to reduce greenhouse gases over 30 years and the balance of other positive/negative impacts. Each solution was measured and modeled to determine its global carbon impact between 2020 and 2050.

The results include the (i) ranking (ii) carbon avoided, reduced, or sequestered (iii) the cost to implement and (iv) net cost/savings over a 30 year period. The top 80 solutions were grouped into seven sectors: Energy, Food, Women & Girls, Building & Cities, Land Use , Transport, and Materials. The top 10 ranked solutions included:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| #1 Refrigerant Management | #6 Educating Girls |
| #2 Wind Turbines (onshore) | #7 Family Planning |
| #3 Reduced Food Waste | #8 Solar Farms |
| #4 Plant Rich Diet | #9 Silvopasture |
| #5 Tropical Forests | #10 Rooftop Solar |

Of the 80 ranked solutions some have more impact than others, but it was felt that reversing global warming would not be possible unless all the solutions were undertaken. In addition to the top 80 solutions, the book also includes 20 emerging solutions that, while they are scientifically valid, there is not yet sufficient economic and/or scientific data to accurately model the net impact on carbon and cost. These innovations include marine permaculture, smart grids, the hyperloop, autonomous vehicles and living buildings.

Local Drawdown projects create “climate hubs” or living labs where solutions can be implemented and tested before being scaled up. There are approximately 1,300 such hubs in 600 communities across Canada; although there aren’t any in Markham yet, a Drawdown Meet Up group hopes to implement projects which will benefit Markham.

B. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

Jacqueline Tung reviewed planning details of the event. She reviewed 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.

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 and setting up signage

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 has been revised to reflect the Mayor's and Council members' schedules.

Ms. Tung advised that sub-committee co-chairs Nadine Pinto and Natasha Welch have organized the schedule for MEAC members and student volunteers to staff booths.

Ms. Tung mentioned that Radio 105.9 may attend the event and reminded MEAC members to direct any media enquiries to City staff for response.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair Kevin Boon advised Committee members that Alimasi Chen is not able to participate in Committee meetings or events this year. After discussion, it was

Moved by Karl Lyew

Seconded by Christopher Ford

To respectfully request the resignation of Alimasi Chen.

CARRIED

- The Committee discussed the possibility of hosting the York Region EAC meeting in May 2019, but decided not to do so since it would follow so closely after the Earth Day event.
- The Markham Youth Expo will be held at the Aaniin Community Centre on May 4, 2019 from 2:00-9:00 pm. MEAC has been offered the opportunity to host a booth there.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew

Seconded by Natasha Welch

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:10 PM.

CARRIED