



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
November 15, 2018

Attendance

Members

Karl Lyew, Chair
Kevin Boon, Vice Chair
Christopher Ford
Nadine Pinto
Natasha Welch

Regrets

Ashok Bangia
Alimasi Chen
Karl Fernandes
Phil Ling, Immediate Past Chair
Elvis Nurse
Diane Ross

Council

Regional Councillor Joe Li
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Guests

Karthik Ganapathiraju, Student
Boris Lam, 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 7:22 PM with Karl Lyew presiding as Chair. On behalf of the Committee, he congratulated the Council members on their re-election.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Item 5 A - Presentation about Markham Waste Management was deferred to a future meeting. The agenda was accepted as amended.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON JUNE 21, 2018, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018 AND OCTOBER 18, 2018

It was noted that the name of a student, who attended the September 20, 2018 meeting, was misspelled: the name should read Jake Koszczewski.

It was

Moved by Christopher Ford
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meetings on June 21, 2018 and October 18, 2018 be adopted as distributed and that the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting on September 20, 2018 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

- Regional Councillor Joe Li reported that Markham District Energy has agreed to install the underground waste management system in future developments in Markham, such as Langstaff, Buttonville airport, and other new subdivisions of 1,000 homes or more.

Regional Councillor Joe Li provided a brief description of the system where residents throw waste into readily accessible chutes, which can either be indoors or outdoors. The waste is temporarily stored above a closed storage valve until the chute is full. Automatic emptying is controlled by a system in the waste collection station located on the outskirts of the development it serves; it is linked to the chutes via a network of underground pipes. When the control system senses that it is time to empty the chutes, a vacuum is created in the pipe network and waste in the chutes is sucked to the waste collection station at speeds up to 70 kph and over distances as great as 10 km. Waste at the collection station is sucked through a cyclone, where it is separated from the transport air. The waste then falls into a compressor where it is compressed and fed into a sealed container.

This system offers many benefits: the waste chutes can be located close to residents, which makes sorting waste at source easier and increases recycling rates. Diverting valves ensure that each waste stream remains separated. Finally, the system is hermetically sealed, so it will not attract pests or insects, or give off unpleasant odours.

The system reduces carbon emissions and increases the sustainability of the environments in which it operates. There is no need for garbage trucks to make regular pickups and this reduces the amount of polluting waste collection vehicles on roads. Finally, waste collection cycles can be scheduled more frequently for less cost.

- Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that:
 - the Waste Management department will undertake a program and service review.
 - Recycling and garbage collection schedules will be available online; hard copies may be picked up at community centres, libraries, and the Markham Civic Centre.
 - Markham is moving towards Zero Waste; there is a Council approved directive to staff to recycle/or compost materials at the Markham Civic Centre, City facilities, and in relation to Markham's food and catering services. Many Markham public elementary schools and Catholic Schools are part of the Zero Waste for Schools Program which encourages Markham schools to adopt Zero Waste practices.
 - Future waste management initiatives will focus on bulky items, e-waste, batteries, litter/public space waste, and single use plastics.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Karl Lyew advised that the action items would be discussed during the meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION - MARKHAM WASTE MANAGEMENT

The presentation was deferred to a future meeting.

B. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair Karl Lyew reviewed the Committee practice where the current Vice Chair assumes the position of Chair and the Committee elects a new Vice Chair, i.e. current Vice Chair will become the Chair for 2019 and the Vice Chair elected for 2019 would assume the role of Chair in January 2020. Chair Karl Lyew reported that Christopher Ford had expressed an interest in serving as Vice Chair in 2019.

It was

Moved by Kevin Boon

Seconded by Karl Lyew

That Christopher Ford be elected as Vice Chair of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) for a one-year term.

CARRIED

C. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

Jennifer Wong advised that neither Aaniin Community Centre nor the Pan Am Centre would be available to host the 2019 Earth Day event. The Markham Civic Centre has

been booked as a backup venue. Committee members discussed other venue options such as Cornell Community Centre, Kings Square Mall (Woodbine and 16th Avenues) and Remington Centre/Marriott Hotel. In conjunction with Alimasi Chen, the Kings Square Mall will be contacted to enquire about availability. It was agreed that it is important to confirm the venue as soon as possible – it is hoped to finalize a decision offline.

The Committee discussed the need for a sub-committee to develop the plans for the Earth Day Event. Vice Chair Kevin Boon advised that the sub-committee Chair would work closely with Jennifer Wong in planning the event; the guide “MEAC Earth Day Event – Planning and Execution” would assist in planning and organizing of the event. Nadine Pinto and Natasha Welch volunteered to serve as Sub-committee Co-chairs.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. ECO SCHOOLS LAUNCH

Chair Karl Lyew reported that he will attend the launch on November 22 and will make a report at the next meeting.

B. MEETING WITH MAYOR SCARPITTI

Chair Karl Lyew advised that it is hoped that it will be possible to schedule a “pizza night” in early 2019 with Mayor Frank Scarpitti.

C. RESIGNATION AND END OF TERM

Chair Karl Lyew announced that Carrie Sally has resigned from MEAC. The Committee would like to thank Carrie for her dedication to the City's environmental issues, and efforts in coordinating Earth Day events, during her time serving on MEAC.

Since this would be his final meeting as Chair, Karl Lyew thanked the Committee members for the privilege of working with them.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Christopher Ford

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:30 PM.

CARRIED