



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
June 20, 2019**

Attendance

Members

Kevin Boon, Chair
Christopher Ford, Vice Chair
Phil Ling
Karl Lyew, Immediate Past Chair
Nadine Pinto
Diane Ross

Regrets

Ashok Bangia
Karl Fernandes
Natasha Welch
Regional Councillor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guests

Martin Bush, Drawdown
Stuart Cumner, Resident
Paddy Wong, Resident

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 7:13 PM with Kevin Boon presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

- York Region EAC report

The agenda was accepted as amended.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 18, 2019

It was

Moved by Nadine Pinto
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on May 16, 2019 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

- No report was available.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Kevin Boon reviewed the list of action items and noted that the items reflect agenda items for this meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. MARKHAM EARTH DAY 2020 PLANNING

The Committee discussed possible plans for the 2020 Earth Day event and whether it was time to change the format of the event. Markham staff advised that they would welcome all suggestions. The Committee discussed ways to attract residents to the event; feedback from 2019 attendees indicated that Markham's Earth Day event did not include activities for adults so this may be an area to address for future events. Other suggestions included featuring prominent environmental speakers, showing environmentally-related movies, including entertainment such as local musicians, and creating a fair-like atmosphere. Committee members also discussed the possibility of involving schools or holding the event in a warmer month than April so that more activities could be held outside. Committee members discussed where to hold the event; suggestions included the Markham Flato Theatre and the Markham Civic Centre, although it was agreed that it was best to go where people are such as shopping malls. Committee members felt that broad media coverage is needed. Jacqueline Tung will investigate costs with Markham Special Events staff. Christopher Ford will send a meeting invitation to the subcommittee to meet during the summer.

Jennifer Wong advised that Markham is developing an Energy Literacy survey to learn what Markham residents understand about energy topics and what issues resonate with them. Committee members took the survey and provided feedback including making the survey available in many languages to reflect the diversity in Markham. It is hoped that Committee members could be involved in rolling out the survey to Markham residents.

B. CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Phil Ling displayed and reviewed the results of input from Committee members to the proposed draft declaration related to the state of climate emergency for Markham Council to consider. It had been suggested previously that such a Council declaration would signal to the Markham community that Council is aware there is a climate emergency and that it wants to do something about it. The Committee discussed and edited the draft declaration. Chair Kevin Boon, Vice Chair Christopher Ford and Phil Ling will finalize the draft and forward it to Regional Councillor Jack Heath and Regional Councillor Joe Li for their review and comment.

C. MEETING FORMAT AND TOPICS

Vice Chair Christopher Ford proposed that, to make MEAC meetings more purposeful, speakers be invited to make presentations on a variety of environmentally-related topics. Committee members agreed in principle with the proposal and suggested possible topics such as Markham's initiatives relating to waste management, single use plastics, and Greenprint actions. Christopher Ford will draft a schedule for Committee review.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair Kevin Boon was asked to check with the Clerk's Office about the status of new members for the Committee.
- Vice Chair Christopher Ford advised that the York Region EAC meeting was held recently in King City. He noted that many York Region cities do not have the support from their Councils that MEAC enjoys. It was noted that other EACs in York Region look to MEAC for ideas.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Christopher Ford
Seconded by Karl Lyew

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:25 PM.

CARRIED