



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
October 17, 2019**

Attendance

Members

Kevin Boon, Chair
Karl Lyew, Immediate Past Chair
Martin Bush
Morgan Davies
Karl Fernandes
Victoria Genge
Phil Ling
Nadine Pinto
Frank Vignando

Regrets

Ashok Bangia
Caryn Bergmann
Stuart Cumner
Christopher Ford, Vice Chair
Diane Ross
Natasha Welch
Paddy Wong
Regional Councillor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guests

James Tang, Student
Laura Gold, Council and Committee Coordinator

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 7:10 PM with Kevin Boon presiding as Chair. He welcomed the many new members and introductions were performed.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

- Hosting of York Region EAC Meeting

The agenda was accepted as amended.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Nadine Pinto

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on September 19, 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. Jacqueline Tung advised that she and Christopher Ford, Vice Chair, are reworking the schedule of presentations based on availability of staff to attend MEAC meetings.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. BOARD AND COMMITTEE ORIENTATION

Laura Gold, Council and Committee Coordinator, Clerk's Office, made a presentation designed to help familiarize Committee members with their volunteer role on the Committee. Topics included Municipal Governance, Roles and expectations, Code of Ethics, Accessibility considerations, Diversity considerations, Privacy & Confidentiality considerations, Media Relations, Procedures & Meeting Management, Conflict of Interest, Pecuniary Interest, and Meeting Effectiveness. In response to questions, Committee members were advised that they may not write a letter to a publication as a member of the Committee since they would be expressing their opinion as an individual.

Ms. Gold advised that she will send new members the Accessibility Guide and requested that they review it, since providing accessible customer service is required by law.

Laura Gold left the meeting at 7:40 pm.

B. PRESENTATION – MARKHAM'S BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

This presentation was deferred to a future meeting.

C. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair Kevin Boon advised he had sent information to Committee members about the roles of the Committee Chair and Vice Chair. He 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 Christopher Ford will become the Chair in January 2020 and the Vice Chair elected for 2020 would assume the role of Chair in January 2021. Committee members were encouraged to consider this opportunity; they were reminded that they would not be alone since Markham staff and past Committee chairs would be available to provide guidance. Karl Fernandes, Nadine Pinto and Natasha Welch agreed to consider expressing their interest.

D. PLANNING FOR MARKHAM EARTH DAY 2020

For the benefit of new members, Jacqueline Tung provided an overview of past Earth Day events and suggested that it might be time for a new format such as an Eco-Market of sustainable vendors, e.g. Zero Waste products. The subcommittee will explore this idea further and report back to the Committee. The venue would likely be a local mall, or other place that the public frequents. She advised that she has contacted Markville Mall to determine the possibility of a partnership to bring this about.

Natasha Welch has agreed to serve as a Subcommittee Co-Chair. Committee members were encouraged to consider expressing an interest in serving as Co-chair along with Natasha.

The Committee discussed the timing of the event. It was noted that it is usually cold in April for Earth Day and this generally limits the event to indoor activities. World Environment Day is observed on June 5; the weather would be warmer at that time which would allow for more outdoor activities. The later date would also provide more time for Committee planning. Markham staff will confirm whether there are other Markham events planned for early June.

It was

Moved by Martin Bush
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the Markham Earth Day event be renamed to the Markham Environment Day event and that Markham's event be held on or close to World Environment Day (June 5, 2020).

CARRIED

E. CLIMATE EMERGENCY

For the benefit of new members, Chair Kevin Boon reviewed this item. In spring 2019, Committee members were advised that, in the previous few months, there had been a groundswell of concern relating to a climate change emergency facing the Earth. At that

time, MEAC voted that it was in alignment with the principle of declaring a climate emergency and prepared a declaration for consideration by Markham Council. MEAC members suggested edits, and Chair Kevin Boon, Vice Chair Christopher Ford and Phil Ling finalized the draft declaration. Chair Kevin Boon discussed it with Regional Councillor Jack Heath and forwarded it to Regional Councillor Joe Li for review and comment.

It was suggested that the draft declaration be further amended to be more context sensitive to Markham initiatives and achievements, such as Net Zero by 2050 and the Municipal Energy Plan. It was also noted that Markham Council would want to know what action MEAC would expect from Council. Chair Kevin Boon will update the draft declaration to include such references.

It had been suggested that, prior to presenting the declaration to Markham Council, it would be best for MEAC members to approach the individual Markham Councillors for their reactions to the draft declaration. Chair Kevin Boon reviewed the results to date; Committee members will reach out to remaining Councillors to obtain their feedback. Diane Ross, Stuart Cumner, and Chair Kevin Boon will connect with Ward 1 Councillor Keith Irish. James Tang agreed to speak with Councillor Collucci (Ward 6), and through her, Khalid Usman (Ward 7), about the draft declaration. Chair Kevin Boon will send the draft declaration to Nadine Pinto so that she might discuss it with Councillor Lee (Ward 8). Committee members will attempt to obtain this feedback prior to the MEAC November meeting, so that MEAC may review it and decide how best to move forward.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair Kevin Boon asked Committee members to consider having MEAC host the York Region EAC meeting for fall 2019. It was noted that many York Region municipalities do not have the support from their Councils that MEAC enjoys and that other EACs in York Region look to MEAC for ideas. It was suggested that Claudia Marsales might be available to give the presentation on Single-Use Plastics. Jennifer Wong will check with York Region staff to determine whether there is a particular date in mind or whether MEAC would be able to suggest a date.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Victoria Genge
Seconded by	Martin Bush

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:20 PM.

CARRIED