



**MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
November 21, 2019**

Attendance

<u>Members</u> Kevin Boon, Chair Christopher Ford, Vice-Chair Karl Lyew, Immediate Past Chair Regional Councillor Joe Li Martin Bush Morgan Davies Victoria Genge Phil Ling Nadine Pinto Frank Vignando Diane Ross Natasha Welch Paddy Wong Caryn Bergmann Stuart Cumner	<u>Guests</u> James Tang, Student David Tan, Student <u>Staff</u> Graham Seaman, Director of Sustainability & Asset Management Jacqueline Tung, Community Engagement Assistant Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Coordinator <u>Regrets</u> Ashok Bangia Karl Fernandes
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1. Call to Order

The Environmental Advisory Committee convened at 7:08 PM with Kevin Boon in the Chair.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Committee reviewed the October 17, 2019 Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes, but deferred the approval of the minutes to the next meeting.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Regional Councillor Joe Li spoke about the City's plans in regards to installing an automated waste collection system in Markham. The City's Planning Department is working on developing a business model for the installation of the system, which includes working with builders. The system is being considered for the Langstaff, and Warden and Hwy 7 communities. If Council

approves the project, the system will likely be installed within the next three years. Quebec City has already implemented this type of a system in some of its communities.

4. Sustainability in Markham

Graham Seaman, Director of Sustainability & Asset Management, Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Coordinator, and Jacqueline Tung, Community Engagement & Program Specialist provided a presentation on “Sustainability in Markham”.

The presentation provided an overview of the City’s:

- Sustainability vision, priorities and history;
- Sustainability Office, and programs;
- Sustainability Neighbourhood Action Plan;
- Community and Allotment Gardens;
- Municipal Energy Plan (MEP);
- Community engagement and outreach;
- Awards and recognition;
- Building Markham’s Future Together - Strategic Goals;
- Program gaps and future plans.

5. Review of Action Items

The Committee reviewed the actions from the November 21, 2019 Environmental Advisory and discussed the following:

- **Regional EAC Forum**

The Town of Georgina is hosting the November 28, 2019 Regional Environmental Advisory at its Civic Centre at 6:30 PM (rather than the City). Members planning to attend will carpool.

- **MEAC Vice-Chair –**

Caryn Bergmann and Morgan Davies expressed interest in the position of Vice-Chair. The Clerk’s Office was requested to provide a handout on the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair to Members interested in the position.

Victoria Genge, and Natasha Welch expressed an interest in Co-Chairing the Earth or Environmental Day Event. Stuart Cumner, and James Tang joined the Sub-Committee, and volunteered to be in a leadership role.

- **Earth Day versus Environment Day**

The Committee discussed holding its annual event on Environment Day rather than on Earth Day in 2020. Jacqueline Tung indicated that since Earth Day has been recognized by Council and

Environment Day has not, the Committee would need to seek Council approval to hold the event on Environment Day. Jacqueline Tung suggested holding multiple smaller events over a period of time (which could extend into June) as an alternative. Further discussion was planned for upcoming Earth Day Subcommittee meetings, to be organized in December and January prior to the next MEAC Meeting.

- **Climate Change Emergency Declaration**

Committee discussed the use of the word "emergency" in its draft Climate Change Emergency Declaration, and the perception this may give that the City has not been acting on climate change mitigation. The word "emergency" is used in the declaration to be consistent with other jurisdictions in Canada that want to take action to mitigate climate change, and to address the urgency required to mitigate climate change.

Committee noted that the presentation provided at today's meeting on "Sustainability in Markham" demonstrates the City's hard work in trying to mitigate climate change. However, the public needs to be made aware of this work. The declaration could be used as a way to make the public more aware of the work the City is doing on climate change, and as tool to get the public more involved. The Committee offered to work with the City's Sustainability Office to help publicize Markham's current and future actions being taken to mitigate climate change.

Further discussion on the wording of the declaration and on promoting the Sustainability Office's hard work in trying to mitigate climate change was deferred to a future meeting.

6. New Business

Chris Ford will plan an informal Christmas gathering for the Committee in December.

7. Adjournment

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:15 pm.