

**Waste Diversion Committee
November 19, 2019
Council Chambers
2:00 PM**

Members Regional Councillor Jack Heath Councillor Reid McAlpine Regional Councillor Joe Li Valerie Burke Guests Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton Karl Lyew, MEAC Representative Regrets Regional Councillor Joe Li Councilor Khalid Usman	Staff Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management Kimberley Dunsmoor, Community Outreach Assistant Sara Tam, Manager of Business Planning & Innovation Juliana Aparicio, Diversion Programs Technician Angela Perry, Waste Operations Assistant Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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1. Call to Order

The Waste Diversion Committee convened at 2:20 PM with Regional Councillor Jack Heath in the Chair.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes from October 2nd, 2019

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the Minutes from the November 19, 2019 Waste Diversion Committee be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Review Next Steps for Single-use Plastics Program

Committee discussed the next steps with respect to its declaration on single-use plastics. Staff were asked to report back to the General Committee with a staff report on the declaration. Committee suggested the following:

- That the staff report be brought forward in early 2020;
- That the Committee create a report to be included with the staff report;
- That the next steps be discussed in more detail at the next meeting;
- That City focus on reducing its single plastic use.

4. “The Best of the Best 2” – Enhanced Promotion & Education

Mission Green Newsletter

Mission Green Newsletter will be mailed out to every household in Markham in December 2019. Residents will be educated on City’s textiles, blue box contamination, and recycling market.

Committee agreed that Markham should maintain its existing recycling program. Firstly, most residents go to Markham’s website to learn about the City’s recycling program rather than to York Region’s. Secondly, the City wants to encourage residents to recycle despite poor recycling markets and lower revenues. Thirdly, the Stewards will be taking over Ontario’s blue box program from the municipalities, and changing the program multiple times over a short period may frustrate residents, therefore the Committee does not recommend changing Markham’s acceptance list at this time. Lastly, maintaining the City’s comprehensive recycling program encourages the Stewards to include these items in their program. Committee agreed to maintain the City’s current recycling program, with the understanding that the York Region may see some of the items included in Markham’s recycling program as contaminants.

New Waste Management Software

Kimberley Dunsmoor, Community Outreach Assistant displayed Durham Region’s Recollect web application as a sample of what the City’s web application will look like. The application will include the online waste collection schedule, the improved waste look-up tool, and an optimized mobile browser. Residents will be able to translate the web application into Chinese, Tamil, and French. York Region depots will be included on the listing of Markham depots residents can visit.

Committee suggested the following:

- Using more graphics and icons on the City’s portal (e.g. like having a graphic for clear bags); and,
- Continuing to refer to yard waste as “yard material”;

Mobile Signs

Committee noted that the mobile signs being launched to educate residents on recycling contaminants should include both the Nope and the Yup items.

5. “The Best of the Best 2” – White Goods Service Improvements

Staff expressed their concern that fridges and freezers containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are being picked up by scavengers for metal scraps are not being managed properly. The Federal Government has strict regulations forbidding the venting of CFCs into the atmosphere to protect the ozone layer.

An educational program informing residents of the environmental risks scavenging appliances presents was proposed. Staff are also exploring passing a by-law that will ban the scavenging of appliances with significant fines for the violation.

Committee suggested exploring the possibility of paying the scavengers for bringing the appliances to Miller.

6. “The Best of the Best 2” – Super Mailbox Recycling

Staff displayed the new recycling bins for the super mailboxes. The colour of the bins was changed to an aqua blue so that they can be easily differentiated and are harder to steal. The recycling from the super mailbox bins is mixed with the recycling collected from households at the transfer station.

Committee provided the following feedback:

- The bins should be deployed in all Wards;
- Put stickers on the bins not to put pet waste in the bins;
- Put “Property of Markham” stickers on the bins.

Committee noted that some of the older super mailboxes need to be beautified. The new super mailboxes were designed so that the sticker can easily be changed. In the previous Term of Council, the Public Realm Committee sent a letter to Canada Post requesting the beautification of the super mailboxes.

7. New Business

Composter Survey Results

A composter survey was conducted in Markham Village to determine the possible link between the use of backyard composters and rat sightings. The survey results indicated that composters, fruit droppings from trees, and bird feeders could be contributing to rat sightings. Staff will be addressing this issue through a public education campaign, and as a property standards matter. The Property Standards By-Law will be amended to permit a property standards order to be issued to remove abandoned backyard composters.

Committee suggested that the best way to encourage residents to remove abandoned backyard composters is through educating them on the issue. The education should focus on wildlife control, rather than just on rodents.

Staff agreed to prepare an educational piece for the 2020 issue of the Mission Green Newsletter that will speak to wildlife control. The article will educate residents on how abandoned composters, fruit droppings from trees, and bird feeders can attract wildlife.

High School Request for Students to Attend a Waste Diversion Committee Meeting

Committee supported the request from a local high school for their students to attend a Waste Diversion Committee meeting, as an observer. Members suggested that the students be invited at a strategic time.

Yellow Ties

A Committee Member displayed a yellow single-use plastic tie used to tie newspapers, and other packages. The danger of the ties to pedestrians and wildlife was expressed.

8. Next Meeting Date

The following items will be discussed at the next meeting:

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- 1) Representatives from other Departments will speak to the Committee concerning their waste management practices and the Zero Waste policy
- 2) multi –residential waste management
- 3) Single-use plastics – next steps

At the following meeting, recycling at parks will be discussed.

9. Adjournment

The Waste Diversion Committee adjourned at 4:09 PM