



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Markham Civic Centre
Electronic Zoom Meeting
October 22, 2020**

Attendance

Present

Christopher Ford, Chair
Caryn Bergmann, Co Vice-Chair
Kevin Boon, Immediate Past Chair
Martin Bush
Karl Lyew
Nadine Pinto
Diane Ross
Frank Vignando
Paddy Wong
Natasha Welch
Karl Fernandes
Phil Ling
Stuart Cumner

Staff

Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Coordinator
Janet Reid, Community Engagement
Program Specialist
Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election and
Committee Coordinator

Regrets

Regional Councillor Joe Li
Victoria Genge

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:10 PM with Christopher Ford presiding as Chair. Janet Reid, Community Engagement Program Specialist was introduced as a new staff liaison member.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There was a minor change to the agenda where Earth Day was added to New Business.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Moved by Karl Lyew

Seconded by Frank Vignando

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on February 20, 2020 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- A) Staff provided a brief overview of the new Provincial Blue Box Program and that a report with respect to the City's preferred conversion date will go to General Committee in the near future.
- B) Follow up on action items was discussed in New Business

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

There was brief discussion to obtain consensus on the Climate Change Emergency Declaration resolution and edit the first paragraph to include, "Getting to Zero's goal of net zero emissions by 2050". The Committee consented to put forward the resolution at an upcoming General Committee meeting and subsequently to Council and made inquiries regarding the City's policy on deputations. Chair, Christopher Ford offered to be the lead deputant for the group. Martin Bush, Stuart Cumner, and Caryn Bergmann consented to be alternates in the event Mr. Ford was unable to attend the meeting.

Jennifer Wong advised that she would discuss the timing of this item with Graham Seaman, Director of Sustainability & Asset Management and will advise when this would be scheduled to appear on an agenda. She also indicated that she would be in attendance at the meeting in support of the item.

B. EARTH DAY 2021

The Committee discussed a different approach to the next Earth Day in 2021 and that in consideration of the current COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual event would be planned. As part of a round table discussion, the following ideas were suggested by the Committee in consideration of the virtual Earth Day event:

- Reaching out to Youth Challenges International;

- Inclusion of Kirkham Gardens and Markham Community Outreach Garden (operated by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam Roman Catholic Parish);
- The establishment of social media presence by Spring 2021 for both Earth Day and MEAC;
- The incorporation of Waste Reduction Week;
- A virtual conference over a weekend or several days;
- Coordination with local school boards to connect with youth and to share programming;
- Collaboration with York Region with respect to presentations on food, trees, bike lanes, plastics, and others;
- Inclusion of #Green Markham and the engagement of food, energy stakeholders to provide a presentation;
- Reach out to local celebrities to contribute by way of a presentation:
 - David Suzuki;
 - David Attenborough;
 - Others;
- Inquiries into potential budget allotment from the City;
- The timing of different types of events:
 - Full day;
 - 1 hour per day over a span of 5 days;
- The recording of all sessions to be shared and replayed at later dates; and,
- The purchase of a Zoom license to conduct the event.

Staff indicated that there are no event resources at the current time but may be able to assist with weekly City media messaging and strongly encouraged the Committee to apply for Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund for up to \$10,000.00.

Jennifer Wong indicated that she would follow up on whether the Committee requires Council approval to hold an Earth Day event and will create a Google Doc in the MEAC folder for additional brainstorming for the next meeting.

The Chair suggested that a strong application be made for funding and that there be consideration for two types of events dependent on the funding received: Low Funded Event and High Funded Event. The Committee identified the following next steps to be reported on at upcoming meetings: outline the program and reach out to potential participants.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Chair Christopher Ford announced that he will be moving to Ottawa and will be resigning as Chair of this Committee. Caryn Bergmann is the single Vice-Chair and will move into the role of Chair.

The Committee congratulated and thanked Christopher Ford on his new employment opportunity and for his work with MEAC. There was a call for nominations for the role of Vice-Chair and will be discussed at the following meeting on November 26, 2020.

B. UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE

Caryn Bergmann addressed the committee to provide information on a recent international energy conference where private companies shared new and innovative technology. She indicated that European countries provide a good example with respect to energy saving initiatives and cities in Sweden achieve net zero emissions with new heating energy services, electric cars, and bus stops inside libraries.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 26, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by	Kevin Boon
Seconded by	Stuart Cumner

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:52 PM.

CARRIED