



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Electronic Zoom Meeting
February 25, 2021**

Attendance

Present

Caryn Bergmann, Chair
Stuart Cumner, Vice Chair
Kevin Boon, Immediate Past Chair
Martin Bush
Andrew Hazen
Phil Ling
Nadine Pinto
Frank Vignando
Natasha Welch
Paddy Wong

Regrets

Ashok Bangia
Karl Fernandes
Victoria Genge
Karl Lyew
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Staff

Janet Reid, Community Engagement
Program Specialist
Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Coordinator
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:07 PM with Caryn Bergmann presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 28, 2021

It was

Moved by Phil Ling
Seconded by Andrew Hazen

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on January 28, 2021 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No report was available.

Nadine Pinto joined the meeting at 7:30 pm.

5. MEAC DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Committee Vice Chair Stuart Cumner reminded Committee members that, at the meeting of the General Committee held on November 30, 2020, Markham Council had voted to receive the Declaration on Climate Change and to refer it to staff for further study and a report. At MEAC's January 2021 meeting, Director Sustainability and Asset Management Graham Seaman reviewed the MEAC recommendations relating to the Declaration, as well as the corresponding staff comments and suggestions.

Since that meeting MEAC members had considered and discussed the staff suggestions. Stuart Cumner read MEAC members' comments as discussed over email and Slack. The members who provided their input agreed that they are willing to omit the term 'Emergency' from the declaration, as it will likely be the cause of rejection by Markham Council, and they felt that it is more important for it to be passed so that the actions in the declaration are taken on the crisis, despite the name. There were no noted objections to staff's recommendations.

Committee members were advised that many actions of the Greenprint plan have been completed and that Markham plans to introduce a new plan for residences since they are the largest producers of emissions. It is hoped that the City of Markham will be able to make this initiative relevant for Markham residents and help them understand "energy at home". The World Council on City Data (WCCD) was founded in Canada in 2014 and exists to help cities and communities of all sizes globally embrace ISO standardized, independently verified, and globally comparable city data to make data driven decisions on management, planning and investment, monitor progress and results, and overall become more sustainable, safe and resilient, prosperous, inclusive and smart. WCCD helps Markham report on the ISO standard; Markham is trying to benchmark its initiatives against those of other international and GTA cities. Markham's Energy Analyst is also focused on data mining and interpreting data. MEAC members could assist by analyzing maps showing areas of emissions and by increasing communications with residents.

After discussion, Committee members still were interested in knowing how Markham will achieve its goals to achieve Net Zero by 2050. It was agreed that MEAC members would send their comments on staff's recommendations to Chair Caryn Bergmann by February 28 so she, in turn, could compile the comments and forward them to Markham staff to be included in the staff report which will accompany the declaration.

It was

Moved by Nadine Pinto
Seconded by Stuart Cumner

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) agrees to accept the recommendations by staff on the Declaration, and send comments to Markham staff to be included in their report to be presented to Markham Council along with the declaration.

CARRIED

It was advised that MEAC members should be prepared to meet with Markham staff to assist in preparing the document for Council.

6. EARTH DAY 2021

The Sustainability department is still engaging with various Markham departments to determine the materials and format; storybook reading and webinars are being considered. Other ideas suggested were:

- the Sustainability department would be hosting a 24-hour challenge for students to create films with a “green” theme; the films could later be available for Earth Day events.
- Markham Public Libraries and Youth Challenge International held a youth summit; the “905 team” has created a book about energy conservation for children.
- a promotion whereby residents would be encouraged to turn in old carbon emitting appliances, such as gas-powered lawn equipment, in return for savings on the purchase of a newer non-emitting machine.
- Videos to appeal to youth
- Promoting storybook reading by youth led group, Youth Challenge International

Committee members discussed ways to reach residents and suggested:

- Advertising (in places where there is no cost)
- Inviting a celebrity/social influencer
- Initiate a media blitz
- Associate a “catchy” phrase with the event
- Hold a photo competition
- Include slide shows

The following members agreed to serve on the Earth Day sub-committee:

Stuart Cumner, Andrew Hazen, Victoria Genge, and Caryn Bergman. Natasha Welch will assist. Chair Caryn Bergman will email the sub-committee members to arrange a meeting date. The Earth Day sub-committee members can decide who will serve as Chair.

It was noted that the April meeting falls on Earth Day, April 22. It was suggested that MEAC and Markham hold a virtual Town Hall; the Earth Day sub-committee will discuss and brainstorm ideas. The sub-committee will reach out to the Mayor's Youth Action Committee to attend future meetings and become involved with MEAC directly.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None was identified.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Phil Ling
Seconded by	Andrew Hazen

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:00 PM.

CARRIED