



## **MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**Electronic Zoom Meeting  
May 27, 2021**

#### **Attendance**

##### **Present**

Caryn Bergmann, Chair  
Stuart Cumner, Vice Chair  
Kevin Boon, Immediate Past Chair  
Ashok Bangia  
Karl Fernandes  
Andrew Hazen  
Karl Lyew  
Natasha Welch

##### **Regrets**

Victoria Genge  
Phil Ling  
Nadine Pinto  
Frank Vignando  
Paddy Wong

##### **Council**

Regional Councillor Joe Li

##### **Staff**

Gabriella Ansari-Correa, Community  
Engagement Assistant  
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 7:08 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 MARCH 25, 2021**

Because there was no quorum at the beginning of the meeting, adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on March 25, 2021 was considered later in the meeting.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Regional Councillor Joe Li reported that:

- Markham is poised to install the infrastructure for an underground waste management system in a new development, and he provided a brief description of the system.
- The 31st biennial World Hakka Conference, to be hosted by the City of Markham with 3,000 delegates expected to attend, has been postponed to 2022 due to the pandemic.

**5. EARTH DAY 2021 DEBRIEF**

Gabriella Ansari-Correa presented an overview of the results of Earth Month programming designed to encourage Markham residents to learn about climate change and the ways they could help protect the planet. The programming started with an Earth Month Social Media Campaign with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn; the objective was to communicate Markham's achievements in sustainability. There was strong interest in the Social Media Photo Contest, particularly following Earth Day. In addition, MEAC held a Virtual Earth Day Open House on April 22. The event ran smoothly, and the youth participation was the highlight of the night. However, attendance at the open house event was not high, possibly due to other events on or near that date, not being able to test drive electric vehicles as in previous years, or a general feeling of too many Zoom meetings. Staff will take into consideration the low attendance vs. the amount of time and effort required to coordinate the details for the event, when preparing strategy for Earth Month 2022 activities.

**6. MEAC FOCUS FOR 2021**

Committee members reviewed and discussed a number of suggestions including, among others, Green Pandemic Recovery Initiatives, as well as ways to engage faith congregations and/or ratepayer groups, better support electric vehicle, and mass transit; and banning the building of more gas stations. Markham staff advised Committee members about HERO (Home Efficiency Retrofit Orientation) and the recently announced Canada Greener Homes Grants program for residents to make energy-efficient retrofits to their homes. Markham feels homeowners are willing to make retrofits to their homes, but need to know how. Markham staff can provide information on builders who will help navigate the retrofit programs and the associated rebates. Markham is currently considering how best to customize a program for Markham residents to encourage strong participation and, to ensure the appropriate rebates are received and everyone benefits environmentally. Markham also hopes to learn from programs launched by other nearby municipalities to make its program as attractive/engaging for residents as possible. Markham is also developing plans to introduce programs to business buildings. Markham may hire a consultant to assist with a feasibility study and to understand its' results. It is possible that Markham could use Toronto results as a guide to engage Markham residents even while waiting for its study results and funding. Committee members were shown a draft version of the "Your Voice Markham" online platform and its tools being developed to engage Markham residents. MEAC may be asked to offer comments about the online platform e.g., how best to use it, or what features would

likely engage others. The Committee briefly discussed recommending new bylaws, however it was suggested that Markham focus on educating, rather than legislating, residents.

It was agreed that Committee members will review the proposed list of initiatives at the next meeting to reduce them to a manageable number. Chair Caryn Bergmann will send an email reminder to Committee members.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

None was identified.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None was identified.

**9. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 25, 2021**

It was

Moved by           Ashok Bangia  
Seconded by       Karl Lyew

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on March 25, 2021 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by           Karl Lyew  
Seconded by       Andrew Hazen

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

CARRIED