



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Electronic Zoom Meeting
March 25, 2021**

Attendance

Present

Caryn Bergmann, Chair
Stuart Cumner, Vice Chair
Ashok Bangia
Karl Fernandes
Phil Ling
Karl Lyew
Nadine Pinto
Frank Vignando
Natasha Welch

Regrets

Kevin Boon, Immediate Past Chair
Victoria Genge
Andrew Hazen
Martin Bush
Paddy Wong

Council

Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guest

Barbara Barnabe (Canadian Federation of
University Women)

Staff

Gabriella Ansari-Correa, Community
Engagement Assistant
Janet Reid, Community Engagement
Program Specialist
Graham Seaman, Director Sustainability and
Asset Management
Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Coordinator
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:10 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 FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Because there was no quorum at the beginning of the meeting, adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on February 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.
- Markham is scheduled to host its 31st biennial World Hakka Conference with 3,000 delegates expected to attend; unfortunately, however, it will most likely be postponed due to the pandemic.

5. MEAC DECLARATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee members were reminded that, at the February MEAC meeting, they voted to accept the recommendations by Markham staff on the Declaration, and to send comments to be included in the Markham staff report to be presented to Markham Council along with the Declaration. No comments were received and so, it was felt that the Declaration was ready to be sent to Markham staff.

Committee members were thanked for MEAC's initiative in bringing forward the Declaration for consideration and for incorporating staff's recommendations. Markham has always considered matters related to climate to be urgent; staff have drafted a report which includes a table indicating actions relevant to the Declaration which Markham is currently doing as well as actions Markham could take going forward. The report may be presented to General Council on April 26, 2021; it was suggested that MEAC members attend the meeting for the purpose of hearing the discussion. The Canadian Federation of University Women would also be welcome to make a deposition at the meeting.

6. EARTH DAY 2021

Gabriella Ansari-Correa was introduced to Committee members; she is assisting staff with greenMarkham initiatives.

The Sustainability department provided an update on plans for Earth Month which starts with Earth Hour on March 27. For Earth Day on April 22, Markham residents will have a "1 Stop Shop" with resources to help them identify actions they can take to bring their ideas to life to support Markham's vision for sustainability. Due to Covid-19, most activities will be online. Markham departments featured include: Engineering, Markham Public Libraries, Operations, and Sustainability and Asset Management.

A Social Media Photo Contest was proposed; contestants would need to show actions they are taking during Earth Month to impact global change. MEAC would need to confirm the terms of the contest and the number and value of prizes, and to notify winners. The

subcommittee will approach Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager Waste and Environmental Management, for prizes; if none are available, MEAC could consider other recognition such as presenting the award on social media. Staff will forward a list of action items to MEAC.

Video Testimonials had been proposed but time is needed to plan properly, therefore it was suggested to defer this activity to 2022.

Since its April meeting is scheduled for Earth Day (April 22), it was proposed that MEAC hold an Open House instead of a meeting. A theme of “Celebrating youth engagement in sustainability” was suggested and a preliminary program was discussed. The subcommittee will draw up a list of presenters and send to Committee members for review. It was suggested that MEAC hold a “dry run” a few days before the actual event. Event Brite would be used for registration and it is hoped that MEAC members would help promote this event. Committee Chair Caryn Bergmann agreed to emcee the event.

The Earth Month communications plan includes a month-long social media campaign, “30 posts in 30 days”; the goal each day is to highlight Earth Day or a sustainable idea that residents can take part in or start at home.

7. NEW BUSINESS

(a) MEAC FOCUS FOR 2021

Committee Chair Caryn Bergmann sked Committee members for thoughts about this. Suggestions included:

- Installing “No idling” signs
- HERO (Home Efficiency Retrofit Orientation) for residents’ homes
- How to better engage and educate City residents
- Curbside give-away days - potential waste diversion initiative; Staff will discuss with Claudia Marsales the possibility of implementing this idea later this year

Stuart Cumner, Jennifer Wong, and Graham Seaman will arrange a meeting to discuss Markham’s investments and possible strategy to ensure investments are with companies which value and support sustainability.

In response to questions about sustainability with new buildings, Committee members were advised that components of the City’s Municipal Energy Plan, including Net zero targets, are included in development plans. Markham successfully negotiated higher targets for the North Markham development.

(b) Electric Chargers

It was reported that EV readiness is mandatory in new buildings, however it is an expensive challenge when retrofitting.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None was identified.

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

It was

Moved by Stuart Cumner
Seconded by Frank Vignando

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

CARRIED

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee/Open House is scheduled for Thursday, April 22, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:45 PM.

CARRIED