



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Electronic Zoom Meeting June 24, 2021

Attendance

Present

Stuart Cumner, Vice Chair
Ashok Bangia
Phil Ling
Nadine Pinto
Frank Vignando
Natasha Welch
Paddy Wong

Regrets

Caryn Bergmann, Chair
Kevin Boon, Immediate Past Chair
Victoria Genge
Karl Fernandes
Andrew Hazen
Karl Lyew

Council

Regional Councillor Joe Li

Staff

Gabriela 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 7:06 PM with Stuart Cumner 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 MAY 27, 2021

Because there was no quorum at the beginning of the meeting, adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on May 27, 2021 was considered later in the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Regional Councillor Joe Li reported that:

- A report is expected soon regarding the proposed installation of infrastructure for an underground waste management system; Markham hopes to be first city in Canada to install such a system a new development.
- Markham Council voted against supporting Metrolinx' Option 3 for the Yonge subway line extension. Option 3, which Metrolinx is now recommending, has a similar alignment to Options 1 and 2, to a point north of Thornhill Avenue. The alignment then turns east and continues under Kirk Drive, a residential area, before turning again to run at-grade and in the CN/GO rail corridor. Due to budget pressures, the Option 3 alignment includes four stations, rather than six stations proposed with Option 1. Committee members briefly discussed the environmental cost of this option.
- Markham is waiting for final instructions from the Provincial Government in relation to new rules for the Blue Box recycling program.

Jennifer Wong, Janet Reid and Gabriela Ansari-Correa reported on Markham Sustainability projects:

- The Markham website has recently been updated to include Earth Day programming.
- MESF (Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund) Grants – the application period has closed and the number of applications increased this year; it is hoped MEAC members can encourage others to apply in the future.
- Development of a new page about community energy retrofit for “Your Voice Markham”, an online forum to engage Markham residents.

5. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 27, 2021

It was

Moved by Phil Ling
Seconded by Natasha Welch

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on May 27, 2021 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

6. MEAC FOCUS FOR 2021

Committee members reviewed and discussed, as the focus for MEAC in 2021-22, a proposed list of Climate Crisis mitigation initiatives relating to Transportation, Residential Heating, Reducing or Eliminating Gas Powered Lawn/Garden Equipment, Reducing Food Waste, and Encouraging the move towards plant-based foods. It was noted that MEAC has a role to support initiatives of the Sustainability department but also to advise on issues facing Markham. Committee discussion focused on whether the list of initiatives was too ambitious. Committee members mentioned reasons why involvement had not been as great in the past year including the pandemic, Zoom fatigue, missing the energy of in-person meetings and despondency with the drawn out Climate Crisis declaration process. It is hoped that having set goals will encourage MEAC members to increase involvement in committee activities.

It was

Moved by Stuart Cumner
Seconded by Paddy Wong

That the proposed list of Climate Crisis mitigation initiatives be adopted by the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) as its focus for 2021-22.

LOST

The Committee then discussed the possibility of focusing on one initiative: Reducing or Eliminating Gas Powered Lawn/Garden Equipment. It was noted that planning should start soon to ensure a successful launch in spring 2022.

It was

Moved by Stuart Cumner
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the initiative to Reduce or Eliminate Gas Powered Lawn/Garden Equipment be adopted by the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) as its focus for 2021-22.

CARRIED

7. NEW BUSINESS

None was identified.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that Natasha Welch is moving from Markham and this would be her last meeting. On behalf of all Committee members, Vice Chair Stuart Cumner thanked Natasha for all her efforts on behalf of MEAC and wished her all the best for the future.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Paddy Wong

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:05 PM.

CARRIED