



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Electronic Zoom Meeting
October 28, 2021**

Attendance

Present

Caryn Bergmann, Chair
Stuart Cumner, Vice Chair
Ashok Bangia
Kevin Boon
Karl Fernandes
Andrew Hazen
Phil Ling
Karl Lyew
Frank Vignando

Regrets

Victoria Genge
Nadine Pinto
Paddy Wong

Council

Regional Councillor Joe Li

Staff

Gabriela Ansari-Correa, Community Engagement Assistant
Laura Gold, Council and Committee Coordinator
Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager Waste and Environmental Management
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 Caryn Bergmann presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with one addition: Update on Climate Emergency Declaration.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

It was noted that Kevin Boon was incorrectly shown as Immediate Past Chair in the list of committee members in attendance at the June 2021 meeting.

It was

Moved by Stuart Cumner
Seconded by Caryn Bergmann

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on September 23, 2021 be adopted with the correction as noted.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Regional Councillor Joe Li advised that a report regarding the proposed installation of infrastructure for an underground waste management system for new developments with over 500 units will be considered by the Markham Development Services Committee on November 22, 2021. It is hoped that MEAC members might wish to attend the online meeting and possibly make depositions in support of the proposal; Ashok Bangia advised he plans to attend. Regional Councillor Joe Li will enquire whether the report for Council can be shared with MEAC. Claudia Marsales advised that the Waste Management team is supportive of this initiative and recommended that, if interested, MEAC members research similar installations at the Sunshine Coast Australia or Wembley Park London. It was noted that waste management is one of the last services still handled above ground and underground systems would be cleaner and healthier. This would be the first such system in Ontario; there is already an underground waste management system in Quebec.

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Stuart Cumner

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) recommend to Markham Council that it review and consider endorsing the implementation of an underground waste management system for new developments with over 500 units.

CARRIED

5. MEAC FOCUS FOR 2021

MEAC members discussed the initiative whereby MEAC and the Sustainability office would encourage Markham residents, large property owners, retailers and commercial property maintenance firms to replace the use of gas powered equipment such as mowers, trimmers, blowers, and snowblowers with plug-in electric or rechargeable versions; the focus for the first year will be on Markham residents. It was suggested that MEAC concentrate more on reducing emissions rather than eliminating gas powered equipment. It was noted that York

University is in the process of converting its gas powered equipment and MEAC might be able to learn from York University's experience.

Andrew Hazen reported that the group of York University students is already at work on the "Get Your Lawn Off Gas!" project; they are developing a survey intended for Markham residents and developing a social media plan. Claudia Marsales recommended that MEAC identify its goals and targets, and the activities to support them, and have the students use the information to create a fact sheet. Staff indicated that there are no event resources available at the current time Jennifer Wong will enquire if it would be possible to have a Markham account. Claudia Marsales will reach out to York Region staff for information on their rebate programs and suggested inviting a York Region staff member to the next MEAC meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

Chair Caryn Bergmann reviewed the Committee practice where the current Vice Chair assumes the position of Chair and the Committee elects a new Vice Chair, i.e., current Vice Chair Stuart Cumner will become the Chair at the November 2021 meeting and the Vice Chair elected for 2022 would assume the role of Chair in January 2023.

It was

Moved by Stuart Cumner
Seconded by Caryn Bergmann

THAT Andrew Hazen be elected as Vice Chair of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) for a one-year term.

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- Andrew Hazen provided information about Climate Caucus, a cross-Canada group of Municipal leaders working on the climate crisis, aligned with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). FCM's programs and advocacy help secure new tools that empower municipalities to build stronger communities.
- Jennifer Wong reported that the Sustainability Office continues to work on the Climate Emergency Declaration; there still is a reluctance to include the word "emergency". It was suggested that it might help to clarify the issue for Markham Council that climate is a *global emergency*, municipalities such as Markham contribute to the problem, and therefore play a role in addressing it. Graham Seaman, Director Sustainability and Asset Management, will update the committee at its next meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

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

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Stuart Cumner

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:30 PM.

CARRIED