



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Electronic Zoom Meeting
February 24, 2022**

Attendance

Present

Stuart Cumner, Chair
Andrew Hazen, Vice Chair
Caryn Bergmann, Immediate Past Chair
Karl Fernandes
Phil Ling
Karl Lyew
Frank Vignando
Paddy Wong

Guest

Vicki Choy, Canadian Federation of
University Women (CFUW)

Regrets

Ashok Bangia

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 7:05 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 MEETINGS HELD ON NOVEMBER 25, 2021 AND ON JANUARY 27, 2022

It was

Moved by Caryn Bergmann
Seconded by Phil Ling

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

CARRIED

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Andrew Hazen

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on January 27, 2022 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Regional Councillor Joe Li advised that a proposal regarding the installation of infrastructure for an underground waste management system for new developments of 500 units or more will be implemented in the new Markham Centre development (Highway 7 and Warden Avenue) and also in a Langstaff development; it is hoped these projects will now be fast-tracked. On behalf of MEAC, Chair Stuart Cumner congratulated Regional Councillor Joe Li on the progress of the proposal.

5. MEAC FOCUS FOR 2021

On behalf of Vice Chair Andrew Hazen, Chair Stuart Cumner reported regarding the "Get Your Lawn Off Gas!" project that:

- Andrew has met with the Sustainability Manager of Home Depot to discuss discounts for residents who turn in their gas mower in favour of buying an electric or human-powered model; he is waiting for feedback
- A communication professional has been engaged to advise the York University C4 students on promotional strategy and content
- MEAC and the C4 students will need to liaise with Markham Corporate Communications to have materials approved
- MEAC will need to review funding options.

In response to questions about printing capacity, it was recommended that, due to Covid concerns, MEAC consider virtual options including portable signage at major Markham intersections.

MEAC members were reminded that they will need to embrace the project and assume responsibility for it at the end of the C4 students' academic year.

The Committee discussed a number of marketing strategies including a public awareness/educational campaign, coupons for new homeowners, investigating ideas used by other municipalities, allowing residents to "test drive" electric/human-powered equipment, and getting Eco Clubs at schools involved. It was agreed to invite the communication professional, advising the C4 students on marketing strategies, to the next MEAC meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Friends of Swan Lake Park

At the January 2022 MEAC meeting, Fred Peters, a resident of the Swan Lake community in Markham, presented "A Holistic Approach To Realizing Community Goals For Restoration of Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park". He advised that the Friends of Swan Lake Park are advocating for Markham to:

1. Adopt a "holistic" Eco Park approach that recognizes "Restoration" of Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park as a critical community need.
2. Establish a "Mesotrophic" state as an "aspirational" long-term water quality goal.
3. Approve a Pathway to Sustainability – long-term sustainable solutions that restore aquatic and terrestrial environment.
4. Implement a Stewardship Plan that integrates all departmental elements and existing policies.

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Andrew Hazen

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) endorse in principle and refer to Markham Council for consideration:

- (a) the Swan Lake "Restoration" Objective;
- (b) an Eco Approach that integrates community objectives with restoration processes;
and
- (c) the establishment of a Stewardship Plan to include an environmental monitoring framework

CARRIED

B. Earth Month Planning

Jennifer Wong reported that the Earth Day event would focus on the pilot, *Power.House Hybrid: Minimizing GHGs Emissions and Maximizing Grid Benefits*, a study evaluating how ten Markham homes might generate and store clean energy, and optimize electrical and thermal technologies, to minimize greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A Question and Answer session hosted by local youth leaders would feature the City of Markham and its partners Alectra Utilities, Enbridge Gas, Ryerson University, and Natural Resources Canada. Both a media event and community event are planned; although a date has not yet been finalized for

the community event, it is expected that it will be scheduled for an evening in the week leading up to Earth Day April 22, 2022.

Gabriela Ansari-Correa advised that "Get Your Lawn Off Gas!" project would be a good fit to be included in the Sustainability Office's Earth Month plans for a "30 Days/30 Posts" campaign.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- Ban on Single Use Plastics - Vicki Choy advised that the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Markham/Unionville gratefully received a letter from Mayor Frank Scarpitti in response to the CFUW letter requesting that Markham take immediate action to implement the ban on single use plastics.
- Shift: Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health is a charitable initiative that works to protect pensions and the climate by bringing together beneficiaries and their pension funds on the climate crisis. A representative will attend the next meeting of MEAC.
- Resignation - Chair Stuart Cumner advised that Victoria Genge had resigned from the Committer. On behalf of MEAC, he thanked her for efforts and wished her well in her future endeavours.
- New Members – Laura Gold, Council and Committee Coordinator, Clerk's Department, has advised that there are three vacant positions on the Committee. It was advised that Markham is currently advertising for volunteers to sit on Advisory Committees. Chair Stuart Cumner will consult with Ms. Gold about the recruiting process.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:20 PM.

CARRIED