



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Electronic Zoom Meeting September 22, 2022

Attendance

Present

Stuart Cumner, Chair
Karl Fernandes
Karl Lyew
Phil Ling
Frank Vignando
Paddy Wong

Regrets

Andrew Hazen, Vice Chair
Ashok Bangia
Caryn Bergmann, Immediate Past Chair
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Gabriela Ansari-Correa, Community
Engagement Assistant
Janet Reid, Community Engagement Program
Specialist
Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Coordinator

Guest

Vicki Choy, Canadian Federation of
University Women (CFUW)

Staff

Graham Seaman, Director Sustainability &
Asset Management
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:02 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 JUNE 23, 2022

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on June 23, 2022 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Graham Seaman, Director Sustainability & Asset Management, reported that Home Depot has advised it is not in a position to consider a winter project similar to “Get Your Lawn Off Gas” and has asked City staff to contact it again to discuss the possibility of collaborating on a project in spring 2023. Graham Seaman will check on plans to recognize the contribution of the York University C4 students.

- On behalf of MEAC, Chair Stuart Cumner thanked Phil Ling for the 17 years of service that he's devoted to MEAC, three of those serving as Chair, all of which is very impressive. Phil Ling was praised for his commitment and passion for the environment, and support for MEAC and its projects. Phil Ling left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

- Chair Stuart Cumner reminded Committee members of the discussion about the structure of MEAC held at the June 2022 meeting, and the Committee preferences:
 - the involvement of at least two, or if possible three, Councillors, and ongoing support from a Markham department (perhaps Sustainability or Waste Management)
 - the involvement of young people.
 - involvement of the MEAC Chair and/or Vice Chair in the appointment process.

Chair Stuart Cumner reported that the Clerk's Office had advised that MEAC should vote to include these items in revised Terms of Reference, and then forward the revised Terms of Reference to Council for its consideration. He reviewed the revised Terms of Reference so that Committee members were able to see the revisions.

In response to questions, Committee members were advised that:

- Committee appointments are staggered to provide for continuity, but also to introduce some new members to keep the membership fresh;
- MEAC might recruit young people via eco groups at high schools, through teachers at environmentally-friendly schools, and through the Mayor's Youth Task Force;
- Time devoted to MEAC by young people could count toward the volunteer hours needed to graduate;
- Markham staff will discuss and handle logistics related to any vetting required, and the appointment process.

It was also suggested that, if during the recruitment process, there were more applicants than vacancies on the Committee, the names of those not immediately selected to serve on MEAC could be placed on a waiting list so that there would be a pool of people to draw from immediately when members resigned for personal reasons.

It was
Moved by Stuart Cumner
Seconded by Frank Vignando

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) respectfully requests that Markham Council consider accepting the proposed revisions to the MEAC Terms of Reference as identified in bold in the attached document.

CARRIED

It was
Moved by Stuart Cumner
Seconded by Paddy Wong

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) respectfully requests that Markham Council consider allowing the Chair or Vice Chair of MEAC to be involved in the interview process and in the appointment of new members to MEAC.

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

- Chair Stuart Cumner 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 Andrew Hazen will become the Chair at the January 2023 meeting and the Vice Chair elected for 2023 would assume the role of Chair in January 2024. It is hoped that some MEAC members might be interested in taking on the role of Vice Chair, and that an election could be held at the October or November meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Vicki Choi reported that the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Unionville chapter have sent Markham municipal candidates a series of questions asking for their views on various matters relating to the environment. The results will be posted on the CFUW website [Political Letters – CFUW Markham Unionville](#).

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Paddy Wong
Seconded by Karl Lyew

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:00 PM.

CARRIED