



**MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**Canada Room
October 12, 2023**

Attendance

Present

Stuart Cumner, Chair
Karl Lyew (Virtually attended)
Frank Vignando
Ashok Bangia
Victoria Choy
Jack Heath
Sarena Karpouzis
Christina Wong
Cliff Chan
Catherine Jeffrey
Robert Willats
Yash Kapur
Councillor Amanda Collucci
Councillor Ritch Lau

Regrets

Andrew Hazen, Vice Chair
Paddy Wong

Staff

Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability
and Asset Management
Jennifer Wong, Manager, Sustainability
Jacqueline Tung, Community
Engagement Coordinator
Laura Gold, Committee Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Environmental Advisory Committee convened at 7:12 PM with Stuart Cumner in the Chair

The Committee welcomed the new members, and members took turns introducing themselves.

The Chair thanked Karl Fernandes for his service on the Committee, noting that he stepped down from the Committee in June 2023.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or additions to agenda.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 25, 2023

Moved by Victoria Choy
Seconded by Ashok Bangia

That the Minutes of the May 25, 2023, Markham Environmental Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Committee briefly discussed the reduction of formal committee meetings from monthly to quarterly.

Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability and Asset Management, advised that the direction to move to a quarterly meeting schedule comes from the Mayor. The change was implemented to permit both staff and members with more time to prepare and complete assigned tasks between meetings, and to drive more measurable outcomes from committee activities. Informal meetings are permitted between meetings, but staff will not attend these meetings.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. General Orientation and Accessibility Training

Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator, consulted the Committee on potential dates for the General Orientation and Accessibility Training. The Committee agreed to hold the orientation and training session on November 2nd from 7-8 PM. A meeting request for the training and orientation session will be circulated to members.

b. Vice-Chair Election

Stuart Cumner, Chair, advised that a new Vice-Chair needs to be elected at the next meeting, explaining that traditionally the Vice-Chair will take over the position of Chair after serving for one year.

c. Markham's Community Energy Initiatives

Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability and Asset Management, Jennifer Wong, Manager, Sustainability, and Jaqueline Tung, Community Engagement Coordinator, provided a presentation on Markham's Community Energy Initiatives. A series of presentations will be provided over the next couple of meetings on the Sustainability Office's programs, and on how the Committee can play a role in supporting the programs. This meeting's presentation focused on "Community Energy Initiatives – Existing Building Retrofits". The objective of the program is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from existing residential and commercial buildings, and at the same time help residents and businesses offset the cost of their utility bill. An overview of the ongoing projects supporting this initiative was provided, including the Mattamy Springwater Geo-Exchange System, and Power.House Hybrid projects. Committee Members were encouraged to attend two virtual workshops: 1) Home Efficiency Retrofit Orientation (HERO) – November 9, and December 7; and 2) Sealing Energy Leakage (SEL) – Oct 17, Nov 14, and Dec 12, 2023.

Staff questioned how Markham can motivate residents and businesses to reduce their GHGs quickly and cost efficiently. The importance of understanding the community's needs and wants with respect to reducing GHGs to achieve this goal was noted, as many municipalities' community programs aimed at reducing GHGs have not been successful. Cost remains a significant barrier for many residents, and businesses in regards to improving the energy efficiency of their homes or businesses. Therefore, the City needs to convince homeowners and businesses that they can do it. Staff advised that they need both MEAC and industries' voice on this initiative. At this stage staff are figuring out what questions they would like to ask.

Staff advised that a copy of today's presentation will be circulated to the Committee after the meeting. This presentation is not to be shared with the public outside of MEAC members, and that at the November 30th meeting, Staff will continue the discussion on the Community Energy Initiatives – Existing Building Retrofits presentation, including how MEAC can help move this initiative forward.

d. MEAC Focus

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:06 PM