

**MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE**

February 22, 2024

7:00 PM

MINUTES

<p><u>Present</u> Stuart Cumner, Chair Paddy Wong, Vice-Chair Councillor Amanda Collucci Councillor Ritch Lau Robert Willatts Jack Heath Sarena Karpouzis Karl Lyew Christina Wong Victoria Choy</p> <p><u>Member of the Public</u> Christiane Bergauer-Free</p>	<p><u>Staff</u> Kimberley Dunsmoor, Supervisor, Waste Management Programs Laura Gold, Committee Clerk</p> <p><u>Regrets</u> Cliff Chan Catherine Jeffrey Yash Kapur Frank Vignando Jennifer Wong, Manager, Sustainability Jacqueline Tung, Community Engagement Coordinator</p>
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1. Call to Order

The Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) convened at 7:06 PM with Stuart Cumner in the Chair.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Victoria Choy

Seconded Sarena Karpouzis

That the November 30, 2023, MEAC Minutes be approved, as presented.

Carried

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Committee continued its discussion from the last meeting on MEAC's 2024 focus. Some of the subject matters the Committee was potentially interested in focusing on in 2024 included cutting greenhouse emissions, food security, and stopping idling in front of schools and in other locations.

The following was discussed with respect to the potential areas of focus for 2024:

Food Waste and Food Insecurity

A Food Waste and Food Security Working Group comprised of the following Members was formed to focus on waste and food insecurity matters:

Robert Willats
Sarena Karpouzis
Stuart Cumner
Paddy Wong
Christina Wong

Prevention of Idling

Members noted that the City needs both an education campaign, and enforcement of the City's by-law prohibiting idling to stop residents from idling. Budget constraints related to having enough by-law officers to enforce all City's by-laws were acknowledged. The Committee requested that Chris Bullen, Manager of By-Laws and Regulatory Services, provide an update at the next meeting on the by-law enforcement of idling, including how many tickets were issued in recent years for this infraction.

Kimberley Dunsmoor, Supervisor Waste Management Programs, encouraged the Committee to be paperless in any educational campaign they undertake to prevent idling.

4. Moment of Silence for Claudia Marsales

The Committee recognized the late Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager of Waste and Environmental Management, significant contributions to the City's Waste Management Program and noted how she will be missed as a friend and colleague. The Committee took a moment of silence to remember and honour Ms. Marsales.

5. Waste Management Update

Kimberley Dunsmoor, Supervisor, Waste Diversion Programs, provided a presentation on the City's Waste Management program. MEAC asked that presentation be made available to the Committee after the meeting.

The Committee discussed the following relative to the presentation:

- Learning more about or visiting the facility that processes the City's green bin waste.
- Markham's low blue bin contamination rate.
- Bulky item days versus curbside giveaway events.

- Staffs' concerns with curbside giveaway events, included an increase in theft during the events, reusable items getting ruined due to rain and complaints from neighbours about items being left out for days after the giveaway event has ended. It was suggested that items be donated to thrift stores that support local charities and the economy.
- Plans to expand the City's moveout program.

The Committee thanked Ms. Dunsmoor for her presentation.

6. New Business

a. Discussion on Curbside Giveaway in Markham - Paddy Wong

Paddy Wong pointed out some of the benefits of having curbside giveaway days in Markham, such as promoting a circular economy, encouraging the community to recycle reusable large items, and helping residents manage the high cost of living. Dr. Wong noted that Markham is the only municipality in York Region that does not participate in curbside giveaway days, thus, encouraging the City to try participating in these days.

Ms. Dunsmoor advised that she will report the Committee's feedback to staff for their consideration, noting that staff must consider many factors when making a decision and that to-date there has not been a desire to participate in curbside giveaway days due to many issues associated with these days. Ms. Dunsmoor agreed to give MEAC feedback having further discussed the possibilities of Markham curbside giveaways days with her staff.

Committee briefly discussed why the City will not consider recycling bins with lids after doing a pilot project in the past. Some of the reasons the City will not consider recycling bins with lids, include drivers getting hurt and the drivers having to remove the lids.

The Committee also briefly discussed Repair Café's and how they work.

b. Announcements and Deputations

Christiane Bergauer-Free provided a deputation on the topics discussed at the meeting, providing the following feedback:

- Noted that idling is particularly bad at drive throughs.
- Suggested that Markham should have a clear bag limit for garbage, as some residents are putting recycling in their garbage.
- Suggested that items taken from old houses prior to being torn down should be inspected, as the houses may have asbestos flooring or freon fridges that can harm the environment.

- Noted the importance of sustaining air quality and affordability and preventing noise pollution in Markham.

Councillor Amanda Collucci announced that City has been awarded a federal grant to support the net zero retrofitting of the Thornhill Community Centre, Mount Joy Community Centre, and Crosby Arena. The project was anticipated to save significant tax dollars.

Vicky Choy suggested that the City should consider becoming a blue community, which is a community that recognizes water as a human right and promotes public water systems.

Robert Willatts advised that the Heintzman House Community Centre Board will be hosting an event to promote sustainability on May 10th, and 11th, 2024. Mr. Willatts asked for the contact information of the staff from the City's Sustainability and Waste Management Departments so that he could reach out to them to see if they are interested in participating in the event.

Stuart Cumner reported on behalf of Cathie Jeffrey, that there will be a community tree planting event on April 27, and 28th at Bruce Mills Park. There is also an opportunity for Markham Staff to have a table at this event if interested. Details regarding the community tree planting event will be emailed out to the Committee.

The Committee request Jacqueline Tung, Community Engagement Coordinator, send out an email with the City's plans for Earth Day 2024.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on a date to be confirmed in May or June.

8. Adjournment

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.