



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

**NOVEMBER 30, 2023**

**7:00 PM  
MINUTES**

**Present**

Stuart Cumner, Chair  
Paddy Wong, Vice-Chair  
Victoria Choy  
Ashok Bangia  
Jack Heath  
Catherine Jeffrey  
Sarena Karpouzis  
Yash Kapur  
Karl Lyew  
Frank Vignando  
Christina Wong

**Staff**

Jennifer Wong, Manager, Sustainability  
Jacqueline Tung, Community Engagement Coordinator  
Hristina Giantsopoulos, Committee Clerk

**Regrets**

Cliff Chan  
Robert Willats  
Councillor Amanda Collucci  
Councillor Ritch Lau  
Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability and Asset Management

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Stuart Cumner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no changes made to the agenda.

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 12, 2023**

Moved by Yash Kapur

Seconded by Frank Vignando

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee held on October 12, 2023, be adopted.

Carried

### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The Committee noted that Catherine Jeffrey was present at the previous meeting and requested that the previous minutes be amended.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. Election of a Vice-Chair**

Moved by Jack Heath

Seconded by Victoria Choy

That Paddy Wong be appointed as the new Vice-Chair of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee.

Carried Unanimously

#### **b. May MEAC Minutes – discussion on Shein Motion**

This matter will be placed on an upcoming agenda.

#### **c. Bird Friendly Certification**

The committee inquired on the feasibility for the City to apply for Bird Friendly Certification. Jacqueline Tung indicated that this initiative is under review and will provide information on the application process, guidelines and available resourcing at an upcoming meeting. It was noted that a condition of bird friendly certification is that the program be monitored and this initiative has been identified as an opportunity for volunteers to help collect data and promote bird friendly initiatives.

There was discussion on whether developers are incented to adhere to bird friendly standards, how many buildings in the City are bird friendly and what can homeowners do to make their homes more bird friendly. Staff advised that we have the [Sustainability Metrics](#) program for developers to earn points on sustainable plans. Additionally, staff noted that the City works with the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) and uses the data to refresh policies and reduce the number of collisions.

The committee consented to draft a council recommendation at the next meeting.

**d. Markham's Community Energy Initiatives - Home Energy Retrofits  
Presentation Part 2**

Staff presented the second part of, Community Energy Initiatives MEAC, which outlined the City's Net Zero Emissions by 2050 goal and provided an overview of current projects that are underway. The presentation also highlighted the recent do-it-yourself workshops; Home Efficiency Retrofit Orientation (HERO) and Seal Energy Leakage (SEL) for residents to improve energy consumption/conservation in their homes. The overall feedback on the workshops included: they were a little long, that there should be consideration to include a self-assessment tool, and that the financial savings relative to the size of a home should be identified to help incent people to attend the workshops and to complete the recommended projects in their homes to improve efficiency.

Staff also indicated that the feedback from the committee will be used in the \$220,000 study funded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to support consistency in the home energy retrofit financing program in York Region and to educate the public on the energy saving initiatives.

Further discussion ensued regarding heat pumps and if it is feasible to include their benefits in upcoming educational communications and whether the City can dedicate a location to publically demonstrate a heat pump. The committee suggested that the City comprise a list of trusted contractors to assist residents to assess and retrofit their homes or list Natural Resources Canada as a reference point. The committee also suggested that there be consideration to initiate a type of waste wizard tool to attract interest on energy saving educational pieces, provide financial incentives for people to assess their homes, and to create equitable and accessible programs.

Staff noted that a strategic approach will be taken to identify value added initiatives and that this is the preliminary stage of collecting ideas.

**e. MEAC Focus for 2024**

The following topics were identified as potential focus points for 2024:

- Decreasing the use of gas powered lawn equipment;
- Initiating a winter focus on using less fossil fuels;
- Reducing food waste;
  - Plant based foods;
  - Change of diet;
- Cutting green-house gas emissions;
- Using more green energy;
- Recruitment of student volunteers to assist with various initiatives;
- Installing elevated solar panels in parking lots that can provide shade to cars parked underneath, and;
- Establishing a no idling by-law.

The committee suggested that a presentation on corporate energy management be included

on the next meeting agenda. The conversation on bird friendly guidelines and certification will be revisited in Q4, after the guidelines have been updated by staff.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business presented.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

The next Markham Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on **February 22, 2024**, at 7:00 PM

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Jack Heath  
Seconded by Karl Lyew

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting adjourn at 9:07 PM.

Carried