



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Meeting Room B, Aaniin Community Centre
January 18, 2018**

Attendance

Members

Karl Lyew, Chair
Kevin Boon , Vice Chair
Phil Ling, Immediate Past Chair
Ashok Bangia
Karl Fernandes
Fanny Luk
Aamer Mohammed
Adam Poon
Diane Ross
Carrie Sally

Council

Regional Councillor Joe Li

Staff

Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Services
Coordinator
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

Guests

Felix Chan, student
Edward Chou, student
Christopher Ford, student
Kartnik Ganapathiraju, student
Peter Huang, student
Daniel Jiang, student
Hazel Nguyen, student
Kaavian Ragunathan, student
Nadine Pinto, Markham resident
Kaushi Ragunathan, resident
Christopher Williams, Milliken Mills High
School
Lilli Duoba, Manager Natural Heritage
Councillor Valerie Burke

Regrets

Vikas Gautam
Elvis Nurse
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:25 PM with Karl Lyew presiding as Chair. He welcomed the guests to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 16, 2017

It was

Moved by Phil Ling
Seconded by Karl Fernandes

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting on November 16, 2017 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor Valerie Burke advised that MEAC could assist in supporting efforts to prevent turtles from being hit by cars on Persona Boulevard. She also advised that the Public Realm Committee is interested in collaborating with MEAC on future events such as Earth Day. Chair Karl Lyew extended an invitation to the Public Realm Committee to have a seat at future MEAC meetings.

Regional Councillor Joe Li reported that Markham Council is waiting for a decision from Markham District Energy regarding the feasibility of installing the underground waste management system in future developments in Markham.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Karl Lyew advised that the action items would be discussed during the meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION – BRUCE-BERCZY ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR

Lilli Duoba, Manager Natural Heritage, presented information about the “Bruce-Berczy Ecological Corridor”. She advised that ecological corridors have been part of natural heritage planning in Markham for approximately ten years, originally to protect endangered species and now to integrate development with natural heritage in order to protect the habitat. She noted that there is much senior level government legislative framework and policies directing and guiding Markham’s natural heritage planning strategies and initiatives. Markham staff have created a conceptual master plan to guide development of Markham’s Future Urban Area, with the exception of the Bruce-Berczy Ecological Corridor. As lands are urbanized, this east-west connection will allow wildlife to move across the land safely and will expand existing wetlands. Strategically located wildlife corridors connect core habitats and support long term survival and sustainability of plant diversity and wildlife. Connected natural heritage lands create more robust and resilient habitats.

Councillor Valerie Burke advised this plan will be discussed by Markham Council at the January 29, 2018 meeting; she encouraged MEAC members and guests to attend and provide Council with their thoughts about it.

It was

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Moved by | Phil Ling |
| Seconded by | Diane Ross |

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) strongly endorses the Bruce-Berczy Ecological Corridor proposal.

CARRIED

Lilli Duoba and Councillor Valerie Burke left the meeting at 8:40 PM.

B. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

Aamer Mohamed provided an update on plans for Markham's Earth Day celebrations:

- A meeting was held with York University's Dean of Environmental Studies. He is excited to have the school partner with MEAC for this event.
- York University will provide use of its spaces to host environmental seminars on topics such the underground waste management system, ecological corridors, etc., open to the public
- It was suggested the event host keynote speakers, such as noted environmental professors, and a booth staffed by professors and graduate students to engage the community
- It was reported that four members attended the subcommittee meeting on October 25; there was much discussion about the budget required, as well as media and social media opportunities.

Aamer Mohamed noted that it would be important to engage students of all ages. He encouraged the students attending this meeting to become involved and to be leaders at their schools to promote the Earth Day events. The students agreed to connect with Phil Ling, Chair of the Earth Month sub-committee.

For the benefit of guests and new members, Jennifer Wong reviewed the 2017 event and planning details. Aamer Mohammed advised that marketing materials would be developed with the assistance of Markham Corporate Communications staff and asked the students to provide input.

It was agreed to hold the next Earth Month sub-committee meeting on Thursday February 1, 2018 at 7 pm; the meeting was later deferred to February 8, 2018. Jennifer Wong will reserve meeting space at the Civic Centre.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair Karl Lyew advised the Councillor Colin Campbell would appreciate the assistance of MEAC members for the Markham Earth Hour event.
- Chair Karl Lyew reminded that some MEAC members and Markham staff attended the Regional EAC meeting in Sharon on November 15, 2017. MEAC Committee members agreed unanimously to host the York Region EAC meeting in October 2018.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Moved by | Diane Ross |
| Seconded by | Kevin Boon |

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:10 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.