



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Ontario Room, Civic Centre
February 15, 2018

Attendance

Members

Karl Lyew, Chair
Kevin Boon, Vice Chair
Phil Ling, Immediate Past Chair
Karl Fernandes
Fanny Luk
Aamer Mohammed
Adam Poon

Staff

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

Guests

Karthik Ganapathiraju, student
Peter Huang, student
Daniel Jiang, student
Kaavian Ragunathan, student
Nadine Pinto, Markham resident
Jane Wei, Markham resident

Regrets

Ashok Bangia
Vikas Gautam
Elvis Nurse
Diane Ross
Carrie Sally
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

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.

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 JANUARY 18, 2018

The Committee reviewed the minutes and requested the following changes *in italics*:

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*.

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.

As there was no quorum, adoption of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

No report was available.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

Vice Chair Kevin Boon reported the results of the recent Earth Month planning sub-committee meeting. To engage students of all ages, it was agreed to host a science fair among students from three high schools (WWF Trudeau/Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Milliken Mills High School, and Markham District High School) and three as yet to be determined elementary schools. Karl Fernandes advised that he will share contact information for San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic Elementary School. Members of the Mayor’s Youth Council attending the meeting advised that they hold an event in March for elementary students and could promote the Earth Month events to them. It was suggested that involvement by York University may inspire some senior high school students to participate. Jennifer Wong advised that she will confirm whether a certificate of participation/appreciation from Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti could be offered to students who participate. For planning purposes, MEAC will need to know by March 15 which schools plan to have students participate and the title of the projects.

Committee discussion focussed on whether the science fair should be a competition among students or a showcase of their efforts. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that MEAC wants to celebrate the accomplishment of students and therefore, the showcase approach would be best. It was felt that students will want feedback about their projects from attendees of the events. Members of the Mayor’s Youth Council attending the meeting agreed to create a feedback mechanism on Instagram and will present their proposal at the next meeting.

Since space for booths and tables is limited at the venue for the event, the Committee discussed logistics relating to a presentation area for the science fair projects. It was suggested that there would be space for five tables, with potential for two projects per table. Space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. The science fair will be conducted as a pilot project this year, and if successful, MEAC will look for a venue with a larger presentation area next year. Other tables would be available for Markham

advisory committees; it was recommended that the Earth Month planning sub-committee contact the other Markham advisory committees to advise that space will be shared and to confirm which committees are planning to take part at the Earth Day event.

Aamer Mohamed joined the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Aamer Mohamed provided a further update on plans for the Earth Day event:

- York University will provide use of its space on the third floor of the venue to host environmental seminars; there are five spaces: two have been reserved for MEAC and one has been reserved for students if they wish to present a workshop.
- A keynote speaker has been confirmed.
- York University is prepared to make professors available to guide students in the development of their science projects. This would be particularly beneficial for senior students.

Aamer Mohamed noted that the schools would like an official invitation from MEAC about participation in the Earth Day science fair. He will draft the invitation letter for review and comment by the Committee Chair and Vice Chair, and also Jennifer Wong on behalf of the City of Markham.

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

B. REGIONAL EAC MEETING

Chair Karl Lyew reminded the Committee that, at the January meeting, MEAC Committee members agreed unanimously in principle to host the York Region EAC meeting in October 2018. Committee members confirmed this intention. Students will be welcome to participate.

C. BEFORE THE FLOOD

Chair Karl Lyew advised that the York Labour Environment Action Group is hosting a free screening of the National Geographic Documentary "**Before the Flood**" on February 20th at the Newmarket Theatre. He encouraged MEAC members to attend.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Committee members agreed to change the date of the next meeting from March 15 to March 22. Jennifer Wong will reserve a meeting room.
- Committee members were reminded that Laura Gold, Clerk's Office, is able to advise about other committees where MEAC has representation.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:05 PM.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.