



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Ontario Room, Civic Centre

November 16, 2017

Attendance

Members

Karl Lyew, Vice Chair
Ashok Bangia
Kevin Boon
Karl Fernandes
Fanny Luk
Aamer Mohammed
Adam Poon
Carrie Sally

Regrets

Vikas Gautam
Phil Ling, Chair
Elvis Nurse
Diane Ross, Immediate Past Chair

Council

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guests

Hazel Nguyen, student
Nelson Ma, student
Nadine Pinto, Markham resident

Staff

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:10 PM with Karl Lyew presiding as Chair.

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 OCTOBER 19, 2017

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Diane Ross

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting on October 19, 2017 be adopted with the following change *in italics*:

OTHER BUSINESS

Markham Rd./Fourteenth Avenue Park Proposal – Aamer Mohammed advised that he has spoken with *Yvonne Yeung, Senior Planner Urban Design*, regarding the proposal to create a park at the northeast corner of Markham Road and Fourteenth Avenue, to serve the nearby residents and encourage walking and cycling to the new community centre on Fourteenth Avenue. He will draft a business case about this and circulate it to the Committee. He would like to see MEAC partner with other committees to consider this initiative.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

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

Vice Chair Karl Lyew reviewed and updated the list of action items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Vice Chair Karl Lyew reported that Kevin Boon has expressed an interest in serving as Vice Chair in 2018.

It was

Moved by Adam Poon
Seconded by Carrie Sally

That Kevin Boon be elected as Vice Chair of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) for a one-year term.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATION – MUNICIPAL ENERGY PLAN (MEP)

Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Services Coordinator, advised that the revised draft plan is expected to be presented to Markham General Committee in the New Year and, at that time, she will present a summary of the Municipal Energy Plan to assist MEAC members in their understanding of it.

C. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

Aamer Mohamed 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.

Jennifer Wong advised that planning might be easier this year because the same venue has now been confirmed by the Remington Group. She suggested that the Committee begin confirming exhibitors, such as the animals provided by “Speaking of Wildlife”; the animals are popular and will draw crowds if information is included in Earth Day ads.

The Committee discussed many matters relating to exhibitors. There were 8 – 10 exhibitors last year and 10-12 this year may be appropriate for the venue space. It was felt that, to interest attendees, exhibitors need to have a presence and give away free items. York Region and Parks Canada have already confirmed their participation. City of Markham departments, Libraries, and Advisory Committees are also interested in hosting booths. Adam Poon agreed to contact the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, as Chair of Markham District Energy, advised it will participate. Karl Lyew has invited members of the Mayor’s Youth Task force to the January MEAC Committee meeting to discuss the possibility of its participation in Earth Month events. It was felt that the Earth Day event should be educational and that schools and York University should also be invited to participate. Students and members of the Eco Club at Milliken Mills High School may partner with MEAC for the Earth Month events.

The Committee discussed program possibilities including whether to have a keynote speaker, or possibly two or three speakers such as Alectra or Rouge Park, scheduled in between the animal shows.

Promotion plans were discussed. It was advised that Markham will likely observe Earth Hour in March so advertising and promotion of Earth Day will not occur until after Earth Hour. It was noted that past promotion efforts have worked well and could be repeated. Other suggestions included “Buck stop” teasers to be distributed at the Earth Hour event, Markham website, mobile signs around Markham, digital signs at Warden Avenue & Highway 7, community centres, the Markham page of the Economist & Sun, Remington Centre, and Remington newsletter. It was suggested that York Region Radio 105.9 could broadcast live from the Earth Day event; Carrie Sally agreed to contact radio host Jim Lang to discuss this possibility.

Fanny Luk will send a survey to determine a date for the next Earth Month sub-committee meeting, and the December holiday meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- The Committee discussed budget needs and agreed on requesting \$10,000 in order to pay for Earth Day exhibitors and supplies, as well as other initiatives. The Committee agreed to pass a motion and then forward it to Regional Councillor Joe Li and Deputy Mayor Jack Heath for presentation to Markham Council.

It was

Moved by Fanny Luk
Seconded by Kevin Boon

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee request from Markham Council funds in the amount of \$10,000.

CARRIED

It was subsequently resolved that Vice Chair Karl Lyew would discuss the matter with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath.

- Vice Chair Karl Lyew reported that Jennifer Wong, Fanny Luk, Kevin Boon, Kaushi Rangunathan and Karl Lyew attended the Regional EAC meeting in Sharon on November 15, 2017. He suggested that, at the January 2018 meeting, MEAC discuss the possibility of hosting the Regional EAC in October 2018.
- Kevin Boon reminded Committee members of the recent presentation about Vision Zero. Discussion followed and it was suggested that this is a matter under the jurisdiction of York Region and the presentation should be made to the York Region Committee of the Whole.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Carrie Sally
Seconded by Adam Poon

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:30 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.