



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Ontario Room, Civic Centre

October 19, 2017

Attendance

Members

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

Regrets

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

Guest

Hazel Nguyen, student
Nelson Ma, student
Jason Xie, student
Kaushi Ragunathan, 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 7:05 PM with Phil Ling presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with the addition of a presentation on Boosting Cycling Safety in Markham by Elisabeth Tan, Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Diane Ross

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting on September 21, 2017 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Phil Ling reviewed and updated the list of action items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION – BOOSTING CYCLING SAFETY IN MARKHAM

Elisabeth Tan, member of the Markham Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC), presented information about Vision Zero, the long-term plan to achieve zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Ms. Tan reported that Vision Zero began in Sweden in 1997 and that country now has the lowest rate of traffic fatalities in the world. More recently, Vision Zero has been adopted by countries such as Australia and England, and many major cities in the United States.

Ms. Tan reviewed the Vision Zero principles:

- No loss of life is acceptable
- Traffic fatalities and serious injuries are preventable
- We all make mistakes
- We are physically vulnerable when involved in motor vehicle collisions
- Eliminating fatalities and serious injuries is a shared responsibility between road users and those who design and maintain our roadways

She reported that Vision Zero road systems are designed recognizing that traffic deaths and injuries are preventable, and improving the safety of roadways through education, enforcement, engineering, evaluation and engagement. Vision Zero is part of Canada's Road Safety Strategy 2025 and the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario Vision. In December 2016, the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee encouraged both York Region and the City of Markham to adopt the Vision Zero approach. As of April 2017, York Region continued to study the matter. Committee members discussed the benefits of the Vision Zero approach, including the possible synergy with a proposal for the Markham Rd./Fourteenth Avenue corridor.

B. MUNICIPAL ENERGY PLAN (MEP) UPDATE

Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Services Coordinator, thanked MEAC members for their review of the draft plan; comments have been considered and incorporated. Committee members suggested that future reviews of comprehensive plans such as this be divided into segments among members rather than asking all members to review the entire plan. At the November meeting, Jennifer Wong will present a summary of the Municipal Energy Plan to assist MEAC members in their understanding of it. She suggested that the Municipal Energy Plan initiatives may be substantive projects for MEAC to support.

The revised draft plan is expected to be presented to Markham General Committee over two sessions on either October 23 and November 6, or November 6 and November 20. It was agreed that Chair Phil Ling will endorse the plan on behalf of MEAC at the meeting.

It was

Moved by Kevin Boon

Seconded by Diane Ross

That Chair Phil Ling make a deputation on behalf of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) at the Markham General Committee meeting as follows: The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) has reviewed the Municipal Energy Plan (MEP), has commented on it, and strongly supports the adoption and implementation of the MEP by the City of Markham.

CARRIED

C. 2017-18 MEAC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Committee discussion about possible initiatives for 2017-18 concluded that support for the Markham Energy Plan (MEP) and Earth Month initiatives would take considerable effort and time outside of the monthly meetings, and therefore agreed that these would be the initiatives MEAC would focus on. Committee members were reminded that they are always welcome to bring ideas to the Committee and that there is time in monthly meetings for feedback.

D. EARTH MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE

Jennifer Wong advised that the venue has not yet been confirmed by the Remington Group. Markham staff will need assistance from MEAC members in the planning and coordination of the Earth Month event. Chair Phil Ling advised that all Committee members need to be involved. Jennifer Wong has provided a list of exhibitor contacts based on the 2017 event and suggested the Committee use a focused effort to approach them. Exhibitors should be booked very soon.

Aamer Mohamed agreed to project manage the Earth Day Event. To avoid getting behind in the preparations, his first request was to hold a meeting of the Earth Month sub-committee on October 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm to begin planning; Jennifer Wong will book a room at the Civic Centre for the meeting. Fanny Luk will send a meeting invitation to the whole MEAC committee. Students and members of the Eco Club at Milliken Mills High School may partner with MEAC for the Earth Month events.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Markham Rd./Fourteenth Avenue Park Proposal – Aamer Mohammed advised that he has spoken with Yvonne 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.
- It was reported that the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) will host a movie night on February 20, 2018 to screen the movie “Before the Flood”; members from MEAC are welcome to attend.
- Vice Chair Karl Lyew reported that the Regional EAC meeting will be held on Wednesday November 15, 2017 from 6:30 - 9:00 pm in Sharon. In addition to round table discussions, York Region is interested in learning about work that is being conducted by EACs and their municipalities for Pollinators. Committee members were asked to advise Karl Lyew if they plan to attend.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Aamer Mohammed
Seconded by Adam Poon

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:00 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.