



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Ontario Room, Civic Centre
September 21, 2017

Attendance

Members

Phil Ling, Chair
Chuan Li, Vice Chair
Ashok Bangia
Kevin Boon
Kael Fernandes
Karl Lyew
Aamer Mohammed
Adam Poon

Regrets

Vikas Gautam
Fanny Luk
Elvis Nurse
Carrie Sally
Diane Ross, Immediate Past Chair
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Council

Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guest

Hazel Nguyen, 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 as distributed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 18, 2017 AND ON JUNE 15, 2017

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Chuan Li

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting on May 18, 2017 and that the minutes of the MEAC meeting on June 15, 2017 be adopted as distributed.

The list of action items resulting from the June 15, 2017 meeting were adopted with the following change *in italics*:

Meeting Date	Action Item	By	To be completed by	Status
June 15, 2017	Invite a youth representative to the September meeting; approach Christopher Williams to recommend a student.	Phil Ling/ Chuan Li	<i>As soon as possible</i>	

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Regional Councillor Joe Li provided a brief description of an underground waste management system where residents throw waste into readily accessible chutes, which can either be indoors or outdoors. The waste is temporarily stored above a closed storage valve until the chute is full. Automatic emptying is controlled by a system in the waste collection station located on the outskirts of the development it serves; it is linked to the chutes via a network of underground pipes. When the control system senses that it is time to empty the chutes, a vacuum is created in the pipe network and waste from the chutes is sucked to the waste collection station at speeds up to 70 kph and over distances as great as 10 km. Waste at the collection station is sucked through a cyclone, where it is separated from the transport air. The waste then falls into a compressor where it is compressed and fed into a sealed container.

This system offers many benefits: the waste chutes can be located close to residents, which makes sorting waste at source easier and increases recycling rates. Diverting

valves ensure that each waste stream remains separated. Finally, the system is hermetically sealed, so it will not attract pests or insects, or give off unpleasant odours. The system reduces carbon emissions and increases the sustainability of the environments in which it operates. Since there is no need for waste management workers to manually empty garbage bins, there is no need for garbage trucks to make regular pickups. This reduces the amount of polluting waste collection vehicles on the roads. Finally, waste collection cycles can be scheduled more frequently for less cost.

Regional Councillor Joe Li reported that Markham District Energy will study the system to determine the feasibility of installing it in future developments in Markham. It is hoped that Markham will soon pass a bylaw requiring developers to install such a system for any development of 500 homes or more.

On behalf of Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Karl Lyew reported that textile recycling bins have been located throughout Markham and the City is removing “so-called charity bins”. Markham is working to monitor the textile recycling bins to ward off scavengers.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

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

Regional Councillor Joe Li advised the Committee about a cycling issue presented to the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; he will circulate material about the matter to MEAC members.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. MUNICIPAL ENERGY PLAN (MEP) UPDATE

It was reported that Phil Ling, Adam Poon and Jennifer Wong attended a MEP Stakeholder’s meeting on September 20; Markham plans to reach the goal of reducing emissions to net zero by 2050. A comprehensive draft plan will be released the week of September 25. Committee members were asked to review the plan and forward comments to Chair Phil Ling by October 2, 2017, who in turn will forward the comments on to Jennifer Wong, to be incorporated into the draft plan. Chair Phil Ling will also use Committee comments to create a deposition endorsing the plan, to be made on behalf of MEAC at the October 23 General Committee meeting. MEAC endorsement of the plan will allow Markham to be eligible for \$12.5 million funding.

B. 2017 MEAC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Vice Chair Chuan Li reminded Committee members of the Committee discussion earlier in the year to generate ideas about how MEAC might support the twelve themes of the Greenprint plan. It was suggested that, to be in harmony with the Markham Energy Plan (MEP), MEAC focus its efforts on Markham plans to achieve net zero energy, water, waste and emissions by 2050. Committee members were reminded that it is always a challenge to find enough time outside of the monthly meetings to support the Committee goals. Chair Phil Ling will circulate the top five results of the survey so further discussion may take place at the October meeting.

C. EARTH MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE

Jennifer Wong advised that Markham staff will need considerable 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 will provide a "to do" list and exhibitor contacts based on the 2017 event. Chair Phil Ling, Karl Lyew, Adam Poon, Carrie Sally, Amer Mohamed, and Kaushi Ragunathan agreed to serve on the Earth Month subcommittee. Christopher Williams, teacher and head of the Eco Club at Milliken Mills High School, will be approached to recommend a student to assist. Jennifer Wong advised that she will contact Remington Group and suggested that subcommittee members begin contacting potential exhibitors and prize donors. At the October meeting, a high level plan will be developed and tasks will be assigned.

D. TREE PRESERVATION BYLAW UPDATE

Vice Chair Chuan Li reported that Markham had held a workshop to outline the status of obtaining significant tree canopy coverage and that, in fall 2017, Markham staff will report recommended changes to the current by-law to aid enforcement and further promote tree preservation. Diane Ross coordinated MEAC feedback for presentation at the public meeting held on July 11, 2017. The final report has not yet been released.

E. ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

Vice Chair Chuan Li reported that representatives of four Markham committees (Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Public Realm Advisory Committee, Public Art Advisory Committee, and the Environmental Advisory Committee) met to discuss major initiatives, challenges, outreach, and ways to share ideas. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled; Chuan Li will forward the contact information for the Chair of the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to MEAC Chair Phil Ling.

F. MARKHAM RD./14TH AVENUE PARK PROPOSAL

The Committee discussed 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. It was suggested that the Public Realm Advisory Committee and the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee might provide support for such a proposal.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- It was reported that Vice Chair Chuan Li has resigned from the Committee and that Karl Lyew was asked to serve as Vice Chair.

It was

Moved by Aamer Mohammed

Seconded by Kevin Boon

That Karl Lyew be elected as Vice Chair of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) for the remainder of this term, i.e. to the end of 2017.

CARRIED

Chair Phil Ling reviewed the Committee practice to ensure continuity where the current Vice Chair assumes the position of Chair and the Committee elects a new Vice Chair, i.e. current Vice Chair Karl Lyew will become the Chair for 2018 and the Vice Chair elected for 2018 would assume the role of Chair in January 2019. He asked Committee members to think about candidates for the role of Vice Chair; the election will be held at the November meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Kevin Boon

Seconded by Karl Lyew

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:15 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.