



## **MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**Ontario Room, Civic Centre**

**June 15, 2017**

### **Attendance**

#### **Members**

Phil Ling, Chair  
Chuan Li, Vice Chair  
Karl Lyew  
Aamer Mohammed  
Fanny Luk  
Adam Poon

#### **Regrets**

Ashok Bangia  
Kevin Boon  
Jocelyn Cheung  
Vikas Gautam  
Elvis Nurse  
Carrie Sally  
Diane Ross, Immediate Past Chair

#### **Council**

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath  
Regional Councillor Joe Li

#### **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 7:15 PM with Phil Ling presiding as Chair.

### **2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

The agenda was accepted with the addition of:

- Municipal Energy Plan (MEP)
- Net Zero.

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 18, 2017**

The approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting, as there was no quorum at the beginning of the meeting.

#### **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**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

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 their major initiatives, challenges and how they overcome them, outreach, and ways to share ideas. She will let MEAC members know when the next meeting is scheduled so others may also attend.

##### **B. 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 back with recommended changes to the current by-law to aid enforcement and further promote tree preservation. It was reported that a public meeting would be held on July 11 and that Diane Ross would coordinate MEAC feedback for presentation at the meeting; MEAC members were encouraged to forward comments to her by June 26 so they might be included in the presentation.

##### **C. 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. Results of a subsequent online survey indicated that Committee members were most interested in these Greenprint objectives: Achieving Zero Waste, Water Efficiency, Increasing biodiversity and Implementing restoration and rehabilitation of natural areas, and Net zero energy, water, waste and emissions by 2050. It had been agreed to finalize the choice of goals once planning for Earth Day was complete.

It was suggested that, to be in harmony with the Markham Energy Plan (MEP), MEAC focus its efforts on Net zero energy, water, waste and emissions by 2050. Committee members discussed whether MEAC should also pick a second goal given that Committee members might not have enough time to support a second goal; further discussion will take place at the September meeting.

##### **D. EARTH MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE**

It was agreed that this item will be discussed at the September meeting.

#### **E. MUNICIPAL ENERGY PLAN (MEP) UPDATE**

It was reported that a MEP Stakeholder's meeting was held on June 14; Phil Ling, Adam Poon and Ashok Bangia attended on behalf of MEAC. Markham is using 2011 data as its baseline; the data shows where energy is being used and indicates where Markham could reduce consumption to reach the goal of reducing emissions to net zero by 2050.

Achieving the goal will be a challenge since Markham's population will increase by 200,000 in that period. MEAC could make a meaningful contribution by having an active role in this project. It was also reported that there will be more Waste Management projects that MEAC may assist with.

#### **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that the Deputy Mayor's Annual Walk will be held on June 11, 2017. He showed Committee members the circle route of the Rouge Valley. Deputy Mayor Jack Heath also reported that Markham is considering how to create a trail along the Rouge River to Kennedy Avenue and Hiway 7.
- It was agreed to invite a youth representative to the September meeting. It was suggested that Christopher Williams, Teacher and head of the Eco Club at Milliken Mills High School, be approached to recommend a student.
- Aamer Mohammed proposed that MEAC promote the creation of a park at the northeast corner of Markham Road and Fourteenth Avenue. He advised that a park here would serve the nearby residents and encourage walking and cycling to the new community centre on Fourteenth Avenue. Jennifer Wong advised that for its infrastructure projects Markham does plan for access by walking and by vehicles. It was suggested that Aamer Mohammed discuss the idea with his local Councillor. He will continue to research the idea; Chuan Li will forward contact information for an urban designer.
- Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that Markham is planning to create a park at the end of Kirkham Road.
- Committee members agreed to visit the Community Gardens on Kirkham Rd. on July 20.

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by           Adam Poon

Seconded by       Chuan Li

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, September 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.