



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Ontario Room, Civic Centre

February 16, 2017

Attendance

Members

Phil Ling, Chair

Chuan Li, Vice Chair

Ashok Bangia

Kevin Boon

Jocelyn Cheung

Fanny Luk

Karl Lyew

Adam Poon

Elvis Nurse

Diane Ross, Immediate Past Chair

Regrets

Vikas Gautam

Carrie Sally

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guest

Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability

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 7:03 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 JANUARY 19, 2017

It was

Moved by Kevin Boon
Seconded by Fanny Luk

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting on January 19, 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.

C. MARKHAM SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

Director, Sustainability Graham Seaman presented information about Markham's history of sustainability initiatives and the reporting of results. He distributed copies of the 2015 Annual Report which outlines the 2015 results; the Sustainability Office is in the process of updating the results for 2016.

Graham Seaman advised that, in 2011, Markham became one of the first municipalities in Canada to use the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) process, a framework used by many Canadian and international corporations. By integrating sustainability indicators into its Annual Report, Markham presents a complete picture of its financial, social and environmental status in a single document. In 2015, over 60 GRI indicators were included in the report. Some of Markham's successes included:

- 4.0 hectares (9.8 acres) of future woodland habitat created as a result of restoration tree planting projects; and
- A 4.3% reduction in greenhouse gas emission intensity achieved through efficiencies in our facilities and fleet operations
- From 2014 to 2015, the All Injury Rate (AIR) decreased 29.3% from 9.9% to 7%. The Annual AIR is the percentage of employees who were injured at work, and is compared year-to-year.
- While there was a 7.1% increase in City facility water consumption due to the opening of the Markham Pan Am Centre, there was a 13.6% reduction in parks water consumption from 2014 to 2015.

Graham Seaman also reported that Markham's goal is to continually reduce its incremental GHG emissions for each resident and the Corporate Energy Management Plan (CEMP) targets a 5 per cent reduction from 2012, by 2019. Overall GHG emission intensity has decreased in 2015 over 2014. Graham Seaman advised that he is now in charge of asset management and this will provide opportunities to further decrease emissions.

Graham Seaman advised that significant resources are needed to report using the GRI process and asked MEAC members whether this is the best use of staff resources. Committee members discussed the possibility of simplified reporting and reviewing other reporting standards to ensure the adoption of appropriate sustainability initiatives. Graham seaman reminded committee members that Greenprint is a great road map and therefore has a very wide scope; to make measurable progress with the allocated resources, the Sustainability Office has focussed on two of Greenprint's twelve sustainability priorities: Energy and Climate, and Food Security.

Committee members discussed ways to engage Markham residents and encourage them to attend sustainability events, possibly through the use of film shorts, videos, the use of movie theatre for information sessions, or festivals with sustainability theme. Graham Seaman reminded MEAC members that Environmental Sustainability Funds are available to support projects in Markham that promote environmental responsibility and enhance the protection of the Markham's natural resources.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

It was suggested that it would be important for MEAC to help promotion efforts in order to encourage people to attend the Earth Day event.

Jennifer Wong reported that a site tour of the Earth Day event venue – the Cineplex complex at Birchmount Road and Enterprise Blvd., will be scheduled for the following week. Adam Poon, Ashok Bangia and Phil Ling volunteered to take part in the site tour.

The Committee discussed possible exhibitors and activities including Electric Vehicles (test drives), Plug 'N Drive, Earth Rangers, live animals, and possible involvement by businesses located at the Remington Cineplex venue. Remington has offered to open its carousel that day and make it available free of charge to participants. Jennifer Wong will confirm expectations about exhibitors with Remington Group and will review the amount of available space before inviting other exhibitors. Vice Chair Chuan Li will create a Google Docs list of potential exhibitors so Committee members may add names of organizations to consider inviting to participate. Chair Phil Ling will send a list of Remington businesses and the Earth Day toolkit to committee members.

It was agreed that, because there is not much time until Earth Day, a subcommittee of all Committee members will participate in a weekly conference call, on Thursdays at 7:30 pm beginning with March 2, 2017, to discuss and finalize plans for the Earth Day event.

B. 2017 MEAC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Vice Chair Chuan Li distributed and reviewed the results of the online survey related to generating additional ideas further to the January brainstorming session, and rating interest in each of the Greenprint twelve themes. The results of the survey indicated that the 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. MEAC will narrow its focus to one or two areas, to be discussed and finalized post Earth Day at the May meeting. Chair Phil Ling and Vice Chair Chuan Li reviewed the additional project ideas. Chair Phil Ling will send the survey results to the Sustainability Office so staff can advise the status of projects and then MEAC can move forward with finalizing its goals.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

None was identified.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Jocelyn Cheung
Seconded by	Karl Lyew

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, March 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.