



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Ontario Room, Civic Centre

January 19, 2017

Attendance

Members

Phil Ling, Chair
Chuan Li, Vice Chair
Ashok Bangia
Kevin Boon
Fanny Luk
Karl Lyew
Adam Poon
Carrie Sally

Regrets

Jocelyn Cheung
Vikas Gautam
Allan Lee
Anna Li
Elvis Nurse
Diane Ross, Immediate Past Chair
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Council

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

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 7:06 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 NOVEMBER 17, 2016

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting on November 17, 2016 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that residents will be required to participate in Markham's Textile Recycling initiative, likely beginning the week of April 17, 2017. It is hoped that MEAC members and friends might play an important role in raising awareness of the initiative with Markham residents, similar to the role it played with the introduction of the Clear Garbage Bag initiative. It was suggested that up to 50 people could serve as ambassadors to raise awareness at grocery stores, community centres and bin locations on Saturday April 15, 2017. Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that he would offer the services of his assistant to organize the recruitment. Committee members felt the timing of the launch was ideal, and thought the event could possibly be promoted through social media, inserts in tax bills, and at Earth Hour on March 25.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

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

C. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Phil Ling reported that Chuan Li had agreed to be nominated for the position of Vice Chair for 2017.

It was

Moved by Adam Poon
Seconded by Carrie Sally

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

CARRIED

The Committee discussed the status of Environmental Advisory Committee appointments.

It was

Moved by Chuan Li
Seconded by Carrie Sally

That Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) recommend to Markham Council to remove MEAC members who have missed more than three meetings and who have not communicated their interest in participating in MEAC initiatives.

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. MARKHAM'S SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

This presentation was deferred to February 2017.

B. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

Jennifer Wong reported that a lantern walk and hot chocolate at the Varley Art Gallery is being considered as part of Earth Hour events on Saturday March 25, 2016. The Varley Art Gallery might also open to the public and offer a sustainability tour. Mayor Scarpitti would address participants and Councillors would be invited to attend. It was suggested the local BIA might also wish to become involved.

Earth Day events will be scheduled for Saturday April 22, 2017. The location of the Earth Day events is still to be determined, possibly at a central location. A conference call with Phil Ling, Chuan Li and Jennifer Wong took part in a conference call with Remington to discuss the possibility of holding the Earth Day event at the Cineplex complex at Birchmount Road and Enterprise Blvd. It was reported that Remington Group was enthusiastic about hosting the Earth Day event and would encourage other tenants in the complex to become involved, there would be no restrictions on exhibitors or activities, and the Remington carousel might be made available free of charge to participants. It was felt that exhibitors would not be considered in competition with Remington tenants. Cineplex might also be able to promote the Earth Day event at the beginning and end of movies.

C. 2017 MEAC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Vice Chair Chuan Li reviewed the MEAC mission and strategic themes, and led Committee members in a reflective exercise about their involvement with the Committee. Committee members offered these observations:

- A disconnect between expectations and actual Committee efforts
- Thought there would be more community outreach
- Liked involvement in waste management and textile recycling initiatives
- Involvement with other EACs
- Distanced from Greenprint initiatives, although it has no timelines so is difficult to assess
- Committee could be more active with its advisory role to Council and shaping City initiatives and introducing MEAC to youth

- Daytime commitments limit time available for Committee initiatives
- Attendance and involvement is important – rewarding; all members should share work

Jennifer Wong reported that Markham realizes that MEAC members want to be involved and there are opportunities to be involved in waste management, energy and other initiatives.

Vice Chair Chuan Li led Committee members in a second exercise to generate ideas about how MEAC might support the twelve themes of the Greenprint plan. Committee members explained their ideas and brief discussions were held; further discussion will be held at the February meeting. It was suggested that this exercise could be replicated as an Earth Day event to obtain input from the community. Committee members thanked Chuan Li and Phil Ling for the excellent effort to prepare the reflective exercises.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

None was identified.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Adam Poon
Seconded by	Kevin Boon

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