



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes
Ontario Room, Civic Centre
June 16, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Members

Diane Ross, Chair
Ashok Bangia
Jocelyn Cheung
Vikas Gautam
Anna Li
Chuan Li
Fanny Luk
Elvis Nurse

Regrets

Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Allan Lee
Phil Ling, Vice Chair
Karl Lyew, Immediate Past Chair
Adam Poon
Amol Rao
Carrie Sally

Council

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guests

Phil Fung, Hi Garden Inc.
Leon Wasser, Hi Garden Inc.

Staff

Melissa Qi, EA to Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
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 7:10 PM with Diane Ross presiding as Chair. She welcomed new members Anna Li and Elvis Nurse, and introductions were made.

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 19, 2016

It was

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Seconded by Ashok Bangia

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on May 19, 2016 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

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION – INDOOR VERTICAL GARDEN

Phil Fung, former MEAC member, presented the concept of the Vertical Indoor Garden (VIGA) intended to enhance green buildings. The VIGA, a functional self-contained ecosystem, was developed to bring nature indoors since people tend to spend their majority of time indoors. This concept offers a great educational tool for teachers, organic crops with a higher nutrient level than crops grown in the ground, air purification, nature therapy as an esthetically pleasing ecosystem, and biophilic design connecting design with nature. Using this process for wastewater treatment will result in carbon mitigation and better use of energy. Committee members were invited to attend the Hi Garden Inc. open house at its offices on July 19 – 21. Chair Diane Ross thanked Phil Fung and Leon Wasser for their presentation; they left the meeting at 8:45 pm.

B. DEPUTY MAYOR'S ANNUAL WALK

Melissa Qi, EA to Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, reported that the Deputy Mayor's Annual Walk was held on June 11. The walk began near the Markham Library/Community Centre at Highway 7/Main street Markham. It was noted that stairs are needed to safely access the trail and the paths in the park need to be marked. Positive feedback from the fifty participants indicated it was an enjoyable walk through the park. The revised time in the morning worked well since it was less hot at that time. It was felt that the walk and the scavenger hunt were successful; therefore it is possible that the walk will be offered again next year.

C. MEETING WITH MAYOR SCARPITTI

Further to discussion at meeting with Mayor Scarpitti, Chair Diane Ross reported that the key points of the meeting included discussions relating to the possibility of MEAC taking the lead in preparing a status update on Greenprint to reflect which items have been

accomplished thus far. The City could include an update on Greenprint accomplishments in a future issue of Markham Life. It would be good for MEAC to look ahead at five-year targets and participate in shaping future priority initiatives arising out of Greenprint.

It was agreed to strike a sub-committee of MEAC members to lead this exercise. The Sub-committee could report on milestones achieved, and also propose strategy and timelines looking forward. A call for interested volunteers for the sub-committee will be made at the next meeting. Volunteers currently include:

- Chuan
- Ashok
- Elvis

D. YORK REGION EAC

Committee members discussed the agenda and it was recommended that MEAC showcase its accomplishments; Chair Diane Ross will email Committee members for ideas. Jennifer Wong will reserve the Canada Room.

E. MARKHAM'S DIGITAL STRATEGY

Chuan Li reported that she attended an evening session facilitated by a consultant hired by Markham to collect recommendations from residents, ratepayers and others as to what would make Markham a smart city. She advised that it is still possible to offer suggestions online.

F. COMMITTEE LINKAGES

Karl Lyew is cross-appointed MEAC member on both the Environmental Issues Committee and the Waste Management Committee. The Committee felt that that there should be more effective use made of this cross appointment.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The York Region EAC meeting will be held in Schomberg on June 21. Jennifer Wong, Ashok Bangia, Chuan Li and possibly Anna Li will attend.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Chuan Li
Seconded by Elvis Nurse

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 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.