



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes
Ontario Room, Civic Centre
September 15, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Members

Diane Ross, Chair
Ashok Bangia
Vikas Gautam
Karl Lyew, Immediate Past Chair
Adam Poon
Elvis Nurse
Carrie Sally

Regrets

Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Jocelyn Cheung
Allan Lee
Anna Li
Chuan Li
Phil Ling, Vice Chair
Fanny Luk

Council

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Staff

Jessica Yau, Community Engagement Assistant,
Sustainability
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:11 PM with Diane Ross 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 JUNE 16, 2016

As there was no quorum, adoption of the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on June 16, 2016 was deferred to the next meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Jessica Yau reported that Markham is launching a Sustainability Campaign from January – April 2017. The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness in Markham and advise residents how Markham is a leader in sustainability measures. MEAC could support the campaign via community engagement.

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath advised that the city of Paris has banned plastic bags and that there may be merit in Markham doing so as well. He has asked Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager Waste & Environmental Management, to conduct a review of all waste management programs. It was suggested that Markham may wish to encourage restaurants to give discounts to patrons who bring their own containers for takeout or take home orders.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Diane Ross reviewed and updated the list of action items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. YORK REGION EAC

Committee members agreed to hold this meeting on October 20, the same day as the October MEAC meeting would normally be held; this would allow all MEAC members to attend. Suggestions for the agenda included a LEAF (Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests) presentation, Textile Recycling presentation by Claudia Marsales, Fatal Light Awareness Program by Michael Mesure, or a Pollenator Program presented by the David Suzuki Foundation. York Region staff will propose the emcee for the evening. Carrie Sally will reach out to a local contact about catering for the meeting. Chair Diane Ross extended an invitation to Graham Seaman, Jennifer Wong and Jessica Yau to attend the York Region EAC meeting.

B. BLUE DOT MOVEMENT

Jessica Yau reported that the David Suzuki Foundation hopes that municipalities will add the right to a healthy environment to the list of human rights. The Province of Ontario has initiated a public consultation to receive input up to November 8, 2016. Markham has included this concept in its Greenprint, so won't adopt this additional right, but it will encourage the public to respond. It was suggested that MEAC could also assist in encouraging the public to provide input. It was agreed that a good approach would be to include this as part of the roundtable discussion at the York Region EAC meeting.

C. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

It was reported that Markham and MEAC are targeting April 22, 2017 as the date to schedule Earth Month activities. Jennifer Wong will reach out Markville Mall about availability.

D. GREENPRINT

In the meeting with Mayor Scarpitti, 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. It was proposed that a sub-committee of MEAC members would report on milestones achieved, and also propose strategy and timelines looking forward. Volunteers currently include Chuan Li, Ashok Bangia, and Elvis Nurse. Chair Diane Ross will send an email to all Committee members asking for other volunteers.

E. MEAC BUDGET

Chair Diane Ross reported that discussion of the budget would be deferred to the November meeting so that Vice Chair Phil Ling is able to participate.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Diane Ross reviewed the Committee practice where the current Vice Chair assumes the position of Chair and the Committee elects a new Vice Chair, i.e. current Vice Chair Phil Ling will become the Chair for 2017 and the Vice Chair elected for 2017 would assume the role of Chair in January 2018. This matter will be discussed further at the November meeting.

B. PARKS RENAISSANCE

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that Markham staff are developing a map of green spaces including the Rouge National Park. Later in the year, he will bring the draft map to the Committee for review.

C. COMMITTEE LINKAGES

Adam Poon advised that he will alternate attending the Cycling and Pedestrian Committee and MEAC because both committees are scheduled on the same dates.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Adam Poon

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:40 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.