



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes
Ontario Room, Civic Centre
May 19, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Members

Diane Ross, Chair
Phil Ling, Vice Chair
Karl Lyew, Immediate Past Chair
Ashok Bangia
Kevin Boon
Chuan Li
Adam Poon
Carrie Sally

Regrets

Mark Angelini
Jocelyn Cheung
Vikas Gautam
Allan Lee
Fanny Luk
Amol Rao
Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Services Coordinator

Council

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Staff

Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:08 PM with Diane Ross presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with the following addition:

- Markham Digital Strategy

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 21, 2016

It was

Moved by Chuan Li
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on April 21, 2016 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Chair Diane Ross distributed copies of an article about a Superior Court ruling relating to parkland in Richmond Hill.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Diane Ross reviewed and identified the status of the action items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. EARTH MONTH DEBRIEF

It was reported that 876 surveys were completed at the Earth Month event held on Saturday April 23, 2016 at CF Markville. Committee members questioned the accuracy of the number of attendees which was reported as 1,000. Chair Diane Ross will send Committee members the Earth Month survey results.

It was suggested that

- more surveys need to be printed in the future since the supply was exhausted by mid-afternoon
- it would also be helpful to have a large number of giveaways since they were also exhausted by mid-afternoon
- there be staff or volunteers on hand who speak more than one language
- speeches be scheduled later in the day, perhaps after lunch, when traffic in the mall is heavier
- an event space with better acoustics be considered
- the use of the “passports” be continued, and multilingual passports be considered
- new exhibitors be added to bring fresh ideas to the event

Chair Diane Ross will confirm that Jennifer Wong has sent a thank you note to CF Markville management on behalf of the City, or alternatively, will send a thank you note on behalf of MEAC.

Committee members agreed to continue MEAC's involvement with the Earth Month event and to set goals for what it hopes to achieve. It was agreed to contact CF Markville about scheduling the event for Saturday April 22, 2017 and about expanding the number of exhibitors. Chair Diane Ross will discuss with Jennifer Wong.

B. DEPUTY MAYOR'S ANNUAL WALK

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that the Deputy Mayor's Annual Walk will be held during Rouge Days, on June 11 at the revised time of 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. The walk will begin near the Markham Library/Community Centre at Highway 7/Main street Markham. Phil Ling, Chuan Li and Deputy Mayor Jack Heath will conduct a pre-walk on Friday May 20, 2016 to confirm the walk route. MEAC members will be needed to assist with registration at 8:15 am on the day of the event. Chair Diane Ross will confirm details with Melissa Qi, EA to Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, and email them to Committee members.

C. TEXTILE DIVERSION AND EPR SYMPOSIUM

The "Tip-of-the-Iceberg: Textile Diversion and EPR Symposium" (TOTIES), organized by VisionQuest Environmental, was held in Markham on May 4, 2016. Karl Lyew, Ashok Bangia, and Kevin Boon attended and they shared their comments about the presentations during the symposium. Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste & Environmental Management Environmental Services, advised in her presentation that clear garbage bags show that textiles are included in garbage but she is confident that Markham residents will recycle textiles. The Federal Government is supportive of textile recycling because it will help to decrease the carbon footprint. Markham will introduce a textile recycling program in partnership with the Salvation Army which will service recycling bins installed at community centres and fire halls. It is hoped to have 20 bins installed by 2018. Clear bags will be monitored to ensure textiles are no longer included in garbage. Chair Diane Ross will send links to informative YouTube videos on textile recycling, assembled by Ashok Bangia.

D. EAC SYMPOSIUM

Food Security was the focus of the Provincial EAC meeting held on May 14, 2016. Karl Lyew attended and reported there were 50+ attendees including some from EACs of areas outside the GTA. He advised that he had forwarded information about the agenda and presentations to Committee members.

E. GREENPRINT

Discussion of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Meeting with Mayor Scarpitti

Chair Diane Ross advised that an evening of conversation and pizza with Mayor Scarpitti has been scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Mayor's Boardroom. She will draft a list of Committee members, events, successes, and possible questions to ask the Mayor.

B. FUTURE SPEAKERS

The June meeting will include discussion of Markham's Digital Strategy and a presentation about Indoor Vertical Gardens by Phil Fung. Future topics could include the Greenbelt.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew

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, June 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.