MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes
Ontario Room, Civic Centre
March 17, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Members
Diane Ross, Chair
Phil Ling, Vice Chair
Karl Lyew, Immediate Past Chair
Ashok Bangia
Kevin Boon
Jocelyn Cheung
Vikas Gautam
Chuan Li
Fanny Luk
Adam Poon
Carrie Sally

Regrets
Mark Angelini
Allan Lee
Amol Rao

Council
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guest
The Electric Car Guy

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 7:10 PM with Diane Ross presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with the following additions:

- Deputy Mayor's Walk
- Agricultural Advisory Committee

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON FEBRUARY 21, 2016

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on February 21, 2016 be adopted with all instances of the phrase "electronic car" changed to "electric car".

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that:

- the Provincial Government has requested a review of parks. He also reported that Markham is developing a Parks Renaissance strategy which will incorporate a review of Markham's parks and facilities and make recommendations for priorities to respond to deficits in facilities and supply of park lands; MEAC will be invited to comment
- the report regarding the charrette, held in November 2015 to discuss options related to the gateway to the Rouge National Urban Park, will be ready soon
- he will publish a letter on the topic of the possible move of the Buttonville airport to Pickering.

Regional Councillor Joe Li reported that the recent trip to India by Mayor Scarpitti and Councillors was successful. Assistance may be provided to India in the areas of management of waste water and solid waste.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

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

It was reported that a meeting has been arranged for MEAC members to meet with Mayor Scarpitti on Monday April 11 at 7:00 pm at the Civic Centre; the meeting may last 1 – 1.5 hours. This is an excellent opportunity for MEAC members to discuss possible projects that Mayor Scarpitti my wish the Committee to develop. Members were asked to prepare questions they night wish to ask.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. EARTH HOUR PLANNING

Councillor Colin Campbell will host an Earth Hour event at Cornell Community Centre on Saturday March 19, 2016. It was suggested that MEAC volunteers arrive at 5:00 pm; Jocelyn Cheung Fanny Luk, and Diane Ross will attend. The MEAC table will be located beside the Sustainability Office table. Karl Lyew provided the MEAC table top information to Fanny Luk for use at the Earth Hour event.

Jennifer Wong asked for volunteers to assist in staffing the Sustainability Office table; Ashok Bangia, Jocelyn Cheung and Diane Ross offered to assist. Diane Ross will promote the Committee's Earth Day event during the MEAC speech.

B. EARTH DAY PLANNING

Carrie Sally and Jennifer Wong reported that:

- The event would be held on April 23 from 9:30 am – 6:00 pm at CF Markville (Markville Mall) to coincide with the mall's operating hours as requested by mall management
- Carrie Sally and Jennifer Wong will try to have the length of time reduced although exhibitors have advised Jennifer Wong that this is not a problem
- Chuan Li will develop and circulate a schedule of 3-hour shifts for volunteers to sign up .
- Volunteers can talk to attendees about membership on the Committee and Markham environmentally-friendly projects such as waste management and, textile and Styrofoam recycling; Chair Diane Ross will share her speaking points for all to use
- It was requested that a copy of the Greenprint plan be brought so that MEAC members can refer to it and discuss it with attendees
- Carrie Sally will ask Ron Groves for outreach material, particularly the slides used in his recent Plug 'N Drive presentation
- Speeches must be kept to 8 – 10 minutes in total; Jennifer Wong will confirm that Mayor Scarpitti is attending and will speak; Chair Diane Ross will introduce the Mayor and wrap up the speeches by thanking the exhibitors and mall management
- The space provided for MEAC is circular, which could pose problems for the layout of booths and tables
- Seven exhibitors are confirmed; due to the size of space allotted to MEAC , there may be room for only one more exhibitor – it was suggested to invite representatives from H&M's Textiles Recycling Initiative
- Jennifer Wong will confirm with mall management whether MEAC will be allowed to use a mascot
- Mall management requires that all tables have black tablecloths which Markham staff/MEAC will need to provide
- The budget for the event is $1200 based on last year's costs; the AV costs will likely be $800-$1,000 and each department's share of the event cost is approximately $420
- It is not likely that Rock the Bike will be available for the event
- It was suggested that MEAC provide food vouchers for exhibitors
- Attendees will be given a "passport", if they visit each exhibitor and have the passport stamped, they will be given a raffle ticket for a prize; it will be confirmed whether Whole Foods might donate a gift basket and whether Markham might donate swim passes
- Karl Lyew provided a sample of a MEAC business card that has been developed; Jennifer Wong will check to see if it can be printed in time for the event
- Jennifer Wong will check to see if the MEAC information sheet will be ready to use as a handout

C. TEXTILE RECYCLING

The "Tip-of-the-Iceberg: Textile Diversion and EPR Symposium" (TOTIES), organized by VisionQuest Environmental, will be held in Markham at the Hilton Hotel on May 4th, 2016. Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste & Environmental Management Environmental Services, will speak about the new SMART Textile Diversion Strategy to be introduced later this year. Registration is $129 per person. Chair Diane Ross will send information about the symposium to Committee members.

It was

Moved by Carrie Sally
Seconded by Jocelyn Cheung

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee accept the offer of Karl Lyew to attend the "Tip-of-the-Iceberg: Textile Diversion and EPR Symposium" on May 4th, 2016 and pay for the cost of his registration.

CARRIED

Other Committee members indicated that they may also be able to attend the event.

It was

Moved by Chuan Li
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee pay for the registration fees for up to three Committee members to attend the "Tip-of-the-Iceberg: Textile Diversion and EPR Symposium" on May 4th, 2016.

CARRIED

D. MEAC BUDGET

Jennifer Wong reported that the current balance available to MEAC is $6029. It was agreed that the budget should be spent on outreach activities and attendance at relevant events or conferences. It was agreed that MEAC will review the budget annually in September and finalize it by November.

E. GREENPRINT DISCUSSION

Discussion of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. DEPUTY MAYOR'S ANNUAL WALK

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that the Deputy Mayor's Annual Walk will be held during Rouge Days, likely on June 11 or June 12. It was suggested that the walk route might follow the Rouge Valley along Hwy. 48 south to 14th Avenue to experience the history of the valley. Karl Lyew will advise TRCA (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority) that MEAC will work with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath to develop the itinerary for the Deputy Mayor's Annual Walk as part of Rouge Days.

B. PROVINCIAL EAC SYMPOSIUM

It was reported that Jennifer Wong and Karl Lyew plan to attend this event which will be held in Ajax on May 14, 2016. Committee members were asked to advise Jennifer Wong if they also wish to attend. It was suggested that the Committee consider preparing a presentation about its Earth Day event to be delivered at the symposium.

C. MARKHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jennifer Wong reported that one seat on this committee is reserved for a MEAC member and it was wondered whether MEAC wished to retain or relinquish this seat.

It was

Moved by Carrie Sally
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee relinquish its seat on the Markham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

D. REGIONIAL EAC MEETING

It was reported that this meeting, hosted by Whitchurch-Stouffville, is scheduled for March 30, 2016.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Carrie Sally
Seconded by Karl Lyew

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:25 PM.

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.