



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
Ontario Room, Civic Centre
January 21, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Diane Ross, Chair
Phil Ling, Vice Chair
Karl Lyew, Immediate Past Chair
Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Jocelyn Cheung
Vikas Gautam
Allan Lee
Chuan Li
Fanny Luk
Adam Poon
Carrie Sally

Regrets

Ashok Bangia
Amol Rao
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Council

Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guest

Michael Mesure, Fatal Light Awareness Program

Staff

Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Services Coordinator
Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability
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 as distributed with one change: Item 6C Greenprint discussion will follow the presentation about the Fatal Light Awareness Program.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON NOVEMBER 19, 2015 AND DECEMBER 10, 2015

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meetings held on November 19, 2015 and December 10, 2015 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. FATAL LIGHT AWARENESS PROGRAM (FLAP)

Mr. Michael Measure, Founder and Executive Director of FLAP, advised that FLAP was formed in April 1993 to safeguard migratory birds in the urban environment through education, policy development, research, rescue, and rehabilitation. He commended the City of Markham for adopting bird friendly guidelines for new and existing buildings, including standards for bird safe windows; Markham's guidelines have been used as templates by many other cities across North America.

Mr. Measure spoke about the problems birds face in urban environments. Many species migrate at night and they are attracted to lights shining from urban structures. Birds either flutter about the light until they drop from exhaustion, or actually hit the structure and are injured or killed. During the day, mirrored or transparent windows, which reflect natural surroundings, deceive birds and they collide with the window. The keys to solving these problems are to control illumination at night and to treat windows up to 16 metres high with visual markers that can be seen by birds. During migration seasons, FLAP volunteers patrol Toronto's downtown core in the early morning hours to rescue live birds and collect dead ones, representing over 100 species, many of which are declining in population. An estimated 1 to 10 birds die per building, per year; the City of Toronto has over 950,000 registered buildings that could potentially kill over 9 million birds each year.

FLAP is working with municipalities to develop bird safe guidelines for buildings and with commercial organizations to provide assessments of the level of risk that their buildings pose to birds and identifying appropriate changes. It also developed "FLAP Mapper", a tool for reporting and viewing the locations of bird collisions with buildings.

Creating a collision-free urban environment for migratory birds is important because birds are critical links in native ecosystems. Birds pollinate plants, distribute seeds and eat insects. This helps maintain healthy wetlands, forests, and agricultural lands. A safe urban environment for migratory birds also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, since healthy plants serve as filters for both air and fresh water ecosystems.

It was suggested that Mr. Measure could address the Provincial EAC meeting on May 14 and the York Region EAC Forum to be hosted by MEAC in fall 2016.

Diane Ross extended MEAC's sincere appreciation to Michael Measure for his presentation. He left the meeting at 7:50 pm.

5. 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

Discussion of the action items was deferred to the next meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. EARTH HOUR PLANNING

Councillor Colin Campbell will host an Earth Hour event at Cornell Community Centre from 5:00 – 8:00 pm on Saturday March 19, 2016. He will attend the February meeting to recruit MEAC volunteers to assist at the Earth Hour event. It was suggested that MEAC members could promote its Earth Day event in April and give instruction on how to make sleeping mats from recycled milk bags.

B. EARTH DAY PLANNING

It was reported that:

- The event would be held on April 23 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at Markville Mall
- Mall management is happy that MEAC will participate in its Earth Day event; it wants to have a display showing how coffee grounds can become productive soil
- Mall management is waiting for BMW to confirm whether it will also participate
- The space to be assigned to MEAC may be the Centre Court or Hudson's Bay Court
- Carrie Sally has advised Mall management that MEAC needs to know the amount of space available and how many exhibitors MEAC may invite; she will follow up with them by mid-February
- Mall management will market the event via e-blasts, Facebook, and other media

Jennifer Wong will find out if Rock the Bike will be featured at Earth Hour in Vaughan; if it is, then it will not be featured at Earth Hour in Markham and therefore, might be available for the Earth Day event.

C. GREENPRINT DISCUSSION

The Greenprint is a long-term plan to address Markham's environmental health, economic vitality, social well-being and cultural vibrancy. It is a comprehensive strategy to make Markham one of the most livable and sustainable communities in North America. Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability, reminded Committee members that the foundation of the Greenprint is three pillars of sustainability: society, economy, and environment, expanded twelve integrated sustainability priorities.

Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Services Coordinator, provided an overview of initiatives undertaken by the Sustainability Office, noting that, of the priorities, it focuses on Food Security to provide safe, accessible, healthy food for all and, Energy and Climate to achieve net zero energy, water, waste and emissions by 2050.

Food Security initiatives include:

- Markham Organic Home Gardens to encourage home gardening;
- Markham Grows Seed Library program, an initiative in partnership with the Markham Public Library, where packaged seeds are signed out for residents to grow produce and ideally return seeds to replenish stocks; and
- Community and Allotment Gardens to provide land for residents to grow produce.

It was suggested it might be beneficial to link the Seed Library and Community Gardens programs.

Energy and Climate initiatives include:

- Corporate initiatives such as upgrading vending machines to Energy Star levels and installing LED lighting in community centres;
- the Battle of the Buildings where the City challenges its community centres and administration buildings to participate in a competition to reduce their cumulative electricity consumption by at least 15% and to maintain the savings year-round;
- Renewable energy generation where the City of Markham has installed rooftop solar panels which generate 1.8 million kWh in power and approximately \$300,000 non-tax revenue for the City;
- Municipal Energy Program (MEP), the City of Markham's long term city-wide energy plan identifying opportunities for energy conservation within all sectors across Markham to have Markham reduce its energy consumption by 1.8 million kWh over four years. End products of the MEP include an energy intensity map to show Markham's use of energy and opportunities for energy reduction, as well as terms of reference for a Community Engagement Plan (CEP). A consultant has been hired to assist with the MEP and CEP;
- SNAP (Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plan) - The City of Markham, in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), is leading the development of a SNAP in the Bayview Glen neighbourhood, one of five similar projects in the GTA. SNAP is a pilot project that aims to accelerate the implementation of sustainable practices to prepare for climate change within an existing neighbourhood. The Bayview Glen neighbourhood was selected for SNAP because of flood remediation and control work in the area;
- Community Outreach initiatives including Enviropads, Bio-friendly guidelines, and the Markham Milk Bag Program; and
- Global Reporting Initiative - Markham was the first municipality in Canada to adopt this sustainability reporting framework.

It was agreed to continue discussion at the February meeting about areas in which MEAC might be interested in assisting Markham's sustainability efforts.

Graham Seaman left the meeting at 8:55 pm.

D. COMMITTEE INFORMATION SHEET

Jennifer Wong advised that the template does not allow for pictures but that the information table is permitted.

E. MEAC WEBSITE DOMAIN

It was reported that the website is MarkhamEAC.org. Emails may be addressed to the Committee Chair and then be forwarded to others.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. MEETING IN FEBRUARY

It was agreed to keep the regular meeting date of Thursday, February 18, 2016.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Chuan Li
Seconded by Kevin Boon

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:30 PM.

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.