



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
Ontario Room, Civic Centre
November 19, 2015**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Karl Lyew, Chair
Diane Ross, Vice Chair
Chuan Li, Immediate Past Chair
Ashok Bangia
Jocelyn Cheung
Vikas Gautam
Allan Lee
Phil Ling
Fanny Luk
Adam Poon
Amol Rao

Regrets

Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Mavis Fung
Carrie Sally
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guest

Rebecca Hubert

Staff

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:08 PM with Karl Lyew presiding as Chair. Rebecca Hubert, who learned about MEAC through Councillor Colin Campbell's office, was introduced as an observer.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed with the following changes:

- Item 5A Light pollution presentation has been postponed to a future meeting;
- Net Zero Workshop was added as New Business.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2015

It was

Moved by Jocelyn Cheung
Seconded by Amol Rao

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on October 22, 2015 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Committee members were reminded that a charrette, an intensive planning session where citizens, designers and others collaborate on a vision for development, will be held over two days on November 24 and 25 at the Pan Am Centre. The purpose is to discuss options related to the gateway to the Rouge National Urban Park. Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability, will attend on behalf of the Sustainability Office. Karl Lyew, Chuan Li, Phil Ling, Amol Rao, and Carrie Sally indicated they intend on participating in the sessions. Chair Karl Lyew will resend the email with information about the charrette to all Committee members others might be interested in attending.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Karl Lyew reviewed and identified the status of the action items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. LIGHT POLLUTION

This presentation was postponed to a future meeting.

B. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair Karl Lyew 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 Diane Ross will become the Chair for 2016 and the Vice Chair elected for 2016 would assume the role of Chair in January 2017.

It was

Moved by Diane Ross
Seconded by Chuan Li

THAT Amol Rao be elected as Vice Chair of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) for a one-year term.

CARRIED

C. EARTH DAY PLANNING

It was reported that Carrie Sally and Jocelyn Cheung had a productive conference call with Markville Mall management staff. Carrie and Jocelyn advised mall staff what MEAC hopes to present and exhibit. Chair Karl Lyew reviewed the highlights of Carrie Sally's email report with Committee members:

- April 23 would be the best date for Markville Mall
- Mayor and Council members could be invited to speak between 12:30 and 1:30 pm
- MEAC may need to share space with BMW; this might be a positive if an electric car is featured
- The amount of space available may be less than MEAC is used to, and may therefore result in fewer exhibitors possible
- Any booth MEAC uses will need to present a professional image, no table shirts or animals will be allowed

Committee members were reminded of previous exhibitors:

- Rock the Bike
- Waste & Water
- Greenprint and sustainability
- York Region
- VIVA
- Powerstream
- TRCA
- Smart Commute
- OES
- Ecowash
- Parks Canada

Further discussion will take place over the next few weeks. Amol Rao and Jocelyn Cheung will make available to sub-committee members last year's list of exhibitors and checklist of things to do.

It was suggested that, if MEAC is not able to arrive at a satisfactory agreement with Markville Mall, then it may wish to consider partnering with the Trees for Tomorrow initiative of Nory Takata, Parks Planner Operations.

Jessica Yau requested that MEAC advise her by the end of January of the date and venue so that she can include the information in a report for Council.

D. COMMITTEE INFORMATION SHEET

Chuan Li advised that she will send the information to Jennifer Wong.

Jessica Yau left the meeting at 8:15 pm.

E. EAC WEBPAGE

Jocelyn Cheung reviewed information that was added and updates that had been made to the Markham page on the EAC website. Committee members voiced their appreciation for the fine efforts on behalf of the Committee. It was suggested that pictures of community outreach and other events also be included.

Chair Karl Lyew advised that the next Regional EAC meeting will take place on November 26, 2015. It was agreed that MEAC could consider hosting the fall 2016 EAC meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. NET ZERO WORKSHOP

The City of Markham is developing a long term City-wide energy plan, known as the Municipal Energy Plan (MEP) to improve energy efficiency as well as to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions throughout Markham. The MEP will identify opportunities for green energy solutions to support local economic development and the Energy & Climate priority in Markham's Greenprint sustainability plan for the community target of Net Zero energy, water, waste and emissions by 2050. It was reported that a workshop was hosted on November 19, 2015 by Markham City staff with the MEP Stakeholders Working Group to determine the definition of "net zero" for each of energy, water, waste and emissions. Phil Ling, Jocelyn Cheung and Adam Poon attended on behalf of MEAC. Progress was made but City staff will host further stakeholder meetings to discuss options.

B. FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Chair Karl Lyew asked Committee members to identify topics they would like to see addressed in future meetings in order to be informed and ready to provide input to Council. Topics identified included:

- Recycling Styrofoam
- Future recycling trends
- Opportunities to collaborate with small business to increase recycling and other environmental initiatives
- Education efforts related to how go best used the recycling program
- Bee hotels in gardens
- Conservation of water resources
- Markham's direction related to environmental initiatives
- Invasive species
- Transportation issues, e.g. active commute

Chair Karl Lyew thanked Jennifer Wong and Jessica Yau for their assistance during his term as Chair and suggested to Committee members that they consider attending other committee meetings to spread the environmental perspective.

C. MEETING IN DECEMBER

Chuan Li will email Committee members to ask about interest for meeting informally in December.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Jocelyn Cheung
Seconded by Adam Poon

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:10 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

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