



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
October 22, 2015**

ATTENDANCE

Members

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

Regrets

Mark Angelini
Jocelyn Cheung
Mavis Fung
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Council

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

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 7:05 PM with Diane Ross presiding as Chair. For the benefits of new members, introductions were made.

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 SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

It was

Moved by Amol Rao
Seconded by Chuan Li

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on September 24, 2015 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that:

- The result of the October 2015 Federal election may affect the timing of the transfer of Federal land for creation of the Rouge National Urban Park.
- 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 will be to discuss options to make the gateway to the Rouge National Urban Park the entry point to the most popular national park in Canada. Karl Lyew, Chuan Li, Phil Ling, Amol Rao, and Carrie Sally indicated they would be interested in attending. Chair Karl Lyew asked other Committee members to send him an email if they too were interested. Deputy Mayor Jack Heath will arrange for invitations for interested MEAC members.
- Efforts are underway to raise funds to restore a local heritage schoolhouse and Cedarena, an old-fashioned outdoor ice rink.

Karl Lyew assumed the chair at 7:35 pm.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) COMMITTEE INFORMATION SHEET

Chuan Li presented and reviewed draft material for the MEAC information sheet under the topics “Who We Are”, “Mission” and “Activities”. Committee members discussed the draft and recommended changes. Jennifer Wong will provide the draft and recommended changes to Markham Corporate Communications to be finalized.

B) EAC WEBPAGE

Discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

C) EARTH DAY PLANNING

Carrie Sally reported that Markville Mall advised by email that its staff were interested in being involved with MEAC. If the mall would be available, MEAC might prefer to hold a stand-alone Earth Day event at this venue. The Committee discussed possible dates and preferred April 23, April 16, or April 9 in that order. Carrie Sally, Jocelyn Cheung and Vikas Gautam will meet with Markville Mall staff on October 26; they will ask about mall rules and whether the mall would allow vendors, “Rock the Bike”, animals and a BMW electric car as part of the event. Chair Karl Lyew will send Carrie Sally pictures of past events and a list of past vendors for use in the meeting to give Markville Mall staff a visual idea of past events.

Vikas Gautam had already agreed to co-chair the Earth Day subcommittee. Carrie Sally agreed to also be a co-chair, and Jocelyn Cheung and Fanny Luk agreed to be members of the subcommittee.

D) LIGHT POLLUTION

Carrie Sally reported that Councillor Valerie Burke is working with York University professor Jim Laframboise. He would like to make a presentation to MEAC about light pollution created by LEDs; when directed up to the sky, the LEDs disrupt the flight of birds. Carrie Sally will invite Professor Laframboise to attend the November meeting. It was also reported that Markham staff are working with Councillor Burke to create a light pollution bylaw.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. 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. Chair Karl Lyew and Vice Chair Diane Ross led a discussion with Committee members about the role of Vice Chair. Subsequent to the discussion, Amol Rao advised he would consider serving as Vice Chair; in addition, he nominated Jocelyn Cheung. The election will be held at the November meeting.

B. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Jennifer Wong reported that she had contacted the Mayor’s Youth Task Force and two members are interested in joining the Committee. Chair Karl Lyew and Phil Ling will make a presentation to the Task Force about what MEAC is and why MEAC is hoping to have student representation.

C. REGIONAL EAC MEETING

Chair Karl Lyew advised that the next Regional EAC meeting will take place on November 26, 2015 from 6:30 – 9:00 pm. He will distribute details about the venue when available. MEAC benefits from attending the regional EAC meetings through the sharing of information.

D. CLEAN AIR COUNCIL SUMMIT

Chair Karl Lyew advised that he had forwarded information to Committee members regarding the Clean Air Council Summit on October 23. The purpose of the summit is to explore opportunities to better align economic and environmental policies and practices and to build increased awareness of the key role municipalities play in advancing air pollution and climate change solutions and opportunities.

E. MEETING WITH MAYOR SCARPITTI

Chair Karl Lyew will work with the Mayor's Office to arrange a meeting of Committee members with Mayor Frank Scarpitti.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Diane Ross
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, November 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.