



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
September 24, 2015**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Karl Lyew, Chair
Diane Ross, Vice Chair
Chuan Li, Immediate Past Chair
Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Jocelyn Cheung
Vikas Gautam
Adam Poon
Amol Rao
Carrie Sally

Regrets

Ashok Bangia
Mavis Fung
Phil Ling
Fanny Luk
Allan Lee
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

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 Karl Lyew presiding as Chair. New member, Vikas Gautam, was introduced.

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 JUNE 18, 2015

It was

Moved by Carrie Sally
Seconded by Chuan Li

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on June 18, 2015 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Jennifer Wong reported that:

- The High Speed EV Charging Station event would take place in the Great Hall of the Civic Centre on September 25 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm; Committee members would be welcome to attend.
- The Earth Month report is in draft form; Jennifer Wong will forward it to Committee members for review and comment.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) PLUG ‘N DRIVE PRESENTATION

The presentation has been deferred to the November 2015 meeting.

B) COMMITTEE INFORMATION SHEET

Chuan Li advised that she will prepare material on MEAC’s mandate and recent achievements for Committee review at the October 2015 meeting. Jennifer Wong will send the draft layout to Chuan Li.

C) EAC WEBPAGE

Jocelyn Cheung reviewed the revised the Markham EAC webpage. Revisions she has made include the addition of more general information about the Committee and community engagement, and its terms of reference. It was suggested that links be added to the Committee’s LinkedIn page and the Committee information on the Markham website.

D) EARTH DAY PLANNING

A date cannot yet be confirmed for a MEAC Earth Day event since dates in April 2016 are being considered for other Markham events. Previous Committee discussions had recommended holding the MEAC event at Markville Mall even though there may be restrictions on how the committee could showcase the event. Carrie Sally agreed to contact Markville Mall to discuss whether it would consider making space available for a MEAC Earth Day event.

It was suggested that MEAC consider combining its Earth Day event with Councillor Campbell’s Earth Hour event at the Cornell community centre at the end of March.

Factors in favour of this collaboration include:

- the numbers attending the Earth Hour event have been growing and MEAC would prefer to host its event at such a venue,
- Councillor Campbell may welcome the synergy between the two events,
- the MEAC event would still be presented under the Earth Month umbrella,
- there would not be as many restrictions as at Markville Mall,

- fewer City resources would be required since there would be one combined event, rather than two events.

If the Committee were to consider holding MEAC Earth Day events at Markham community centres, the MEAC event could be held at a different community centre each year on a rotating basis. This strategy could be included in the Earth Month report; it would help to identify whether Councillors would be interested in hosting the Earth Day event on a rotating basis and to identify the availability of funding for the events.

Vikas Gautam agreed to co-chair the Earth Day subcommittee. Chair Karl Lyew will send an email to all Committee members to consider volunteering to be a co-chair or member of the subcommittee.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Jennifer Wong reported that she had contacted the Mayor's Youth Task Force to determine whether a student would be interested in becoming a member of the Committee. She will follow up about this, as well as to enquire whether MEAC could make a presentation to the Task Force. She will also investigate whether there is a minimum age requirement for membership on Markham committees.

B. CLIMATEWISE BUSINESS NETWORK

The Windfall Ecology Centre is working to develop a target-based sustainability program for businesses. The Windfall Centre program, named "ClimateWise Business Network," will assist in establishing an environmental leader's network in York Region. A meeting was held on September 24, 2015 with business and community leaders about strengthening the network of organizations in York Region working towards setting and achieving sustainability goals and being involved in energy plans. This meeting was a brainstorming session to determine ideas for involving more businesses. Jennifer Wong will distribute the meeting presentations, when available, to Committee members. She advised that Markham is very supportive of this initiative.

C. BEE PROTECTION

Jocelyn Cheung advised that the city of London has a policy of banning pesticides harmful to bees. She showed pictures of bee habitats used in community gardens in Ottawa. Jennifer Wong reported that the Markham Museum has a bee house but there are not yet any in Markham's community gardens. Jocelyn Cheung will work with Jessica Yau to include information about initiatives relating to bees in the Community and Allotment Gardens Policy.

D. 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.

E. LIGHT POLLUTION

Carrie Sally advised that Councillor Burke would like to make a presentation about light pollution to MEAC; she will confirm Councillor Burke's availability to attend a future MEAC meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Kevin Boon
Seconded by	Adam Poon

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:20 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.