



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
May 21, 2015**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Karl Lyew, Chair
Diane Ross, Vice Chair
Mark Angelini
Ashok Bangia
Mavis Fung
Vikas Gautam
Phil Ling
Allan Lee
Fanny Luk
Adam Poon
Amol Rao
Carrie Sally

Regrets

Chuan Li, Immediate Past Chair
Kevin Boon
Jocelyn Cheung
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Council

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 7:08 PM with Karl Lyew presiding as Chair. New members were welcomed and introductions made.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed, with one addition: Plug 'N Drive.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 16, 2015

It was

Moved by Carrie Sally
Seconded by Mark Angelini

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on April 16, 2015 be adopted as distributed, with the following change in italics:



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes
April 16, 2015

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Regional Councillor Joe Li reported that Markham had planned on waiting to implement an underground waste management system until it could do so in the new Buttonville development. However, following the recent announcement of the York University campus to be constructed beside the Pan Am Centre, Markham has decided to consider the implementation of an underground waste management system at that site first. Three Council members and staff will travel to Quebec City to inspect and learn about its underground waste management system. Regional Councillor Joe Li agreed to once again give the presentation on this topic, at a future meeting.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Jocelyn Cheung emailed photos of Markville Mall to Karl Lyew and Diane Ross. It was recommended that the Committee only consider holding Earth Day at Thornhill Community Centre again if there were other events there on the same day; it was felt that there was a high level of engagement by attendees but there was a low turn-out. Committee members felt that Markville Mall is the best choice of venue for this event. It was agreed that, once Jennifer Wong is able to confirm a possible date with Corporate Communications, Carrie Sally and Jocelyn Cheung will approach Markville Mall about holding the 2016 Earth Day event there.

Jennifer Wong advised that staff will provide Council with a report on 2015 Earth Month events in order to obtain approval for 2016 events; she will provide the report to MEAC members for review when it is ready. It was suggested that MEAC reconsider whether to include workshops in its Earth Day events.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROVINCIAL SYMPOSIUM RECAP

Chair Karl Lyew briefly reviewed details of the 2015 Provincial EAC Symposium which was held at the Markham Civic Centre on May 2, 2015; it was well attended by MEAC members and members of other municipalities' environmental committees. The event was planned well, in a very short time frame, thanks to the efforts of Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Services Coordinator, Jessica Yau, and other MEAC members. The Symposium featured a full agenda: opening remarks were given by Mayor Scarpitti, Deputy Mayor Heath, and Chair Karl Lyew followed by presentations by MEAC, the Oshawa EAC, TRCA/ SNAP, Parks Canada, Markham Operations and Deputy Mayor Jack Heath about the Waste Diversion Clear Bag Program. Time was also allocated for introductions and networking.

Jennifer Wong reported that there was very positive feedback from attendees; they felt that the symposium was well planned and that the topics were timely with experts' information and presentation materials to take home. However, attendees would have appreciated more networking time. One suggestion was put forward for all EACs to consider holding an Earth Hour event and compete against each other to see which municipality most reduces its energy consumption.

B) APPOINTMENT OF MEAC MEMBERS TO OTHER CITY OF MARKHAM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Bev Shugg Barbeito will review information provided by the Clerk's Office with the Council and Committee Coordinator since it was felt that MEAC is also to have representation on the Markham Centre Development/Advisory Committee. Also, the Committee had asked to be represented on the Public Realm Committee. At the June meeting, MEAC may consider making motions regarding its representation on various committees.

C) NATURAL HERITAGE INTERFACE GUIDELINES

Chair Karl Lyew reported that, from time to time, MEAC members are asked to provide comments on environmental related issues and he encouraged members to do so. The Markham Planning department was seeking input about the Natural Heritage Interface Guidelines; Chuan Li, Immediate Past Chair, coordinated the response on behalf of MEAC members.

D) GROWTH PLAN AND GREENBELT PLANS

Jennifer Wong advised that she would resend the email requesting input from MEAC members.

E) EAC WEBPAGE

Jennifer Wong suggested that MEAC may wish to consider showcasing its members and events it has planned on its EAC webpage.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Plug ‘N Drive

Mark Angelini reported that Plug ‘N Drive is a non-profit organization committed to accelerating the adoption of electric cars to maximize their environmental and economic benefits. Although initially focused on Ontario, Plug ‘N Drive believes that electrification of transportation can bring wide-ranging benefits to all of Canada. Plug ‘N Drive would be interested in collaborating with MEAC and would like to attend a future meeting to make a presentation to the Committee. It was agreed to invite Plug ‘N Drive to attend the September meeting.

B. MUNICIPAL ENERGY PLAN

Jennifer Wong reviewed information relating to the City of Markham’s long term city-wide energy plan. It was reported that the initial phase of the Municipal Energy Plan (MEP) has been focusing on engaging stakeholders in the MEP concept and identifying preliminary opportunities for energy conservation within all sectors across Markham. An initial meeting with the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) was held in May 2014; meetings are being held once every quarter until completion of the MEP in 2016. The MEP hopes to have Markham reduce its energy consumption by 1.8 million kWh over four years.

Jennifer Wong advised that the Sustainability Office will be issuing an RFP for a consultant to develop a work plan to finalize the MEP; she will send an email with a link to the material to Committee members and she would appreciate it if MEAC members would comment on it.

The following Committee members indicated they would be interested in attending meetings of the MEP Stakeholder Working Group:

Jocelyn Cheung
Adam Poon
Phil Ling
Ashok Bangia

C. COMMITTEE INFORMATION SHEET

Jennifer Wong displayed a 1-page information sheet about another Markham committee and suggested that MEAC might wish to consider developing a similar information sheet to outline who the committee members are and the initiatives the Committee undertakes. Chair Karl Lyew will ask Chuan Li for information already prepared on MEAC’s mandate, goals and objectives.

D. ROUGE DAYS

It was reported that Rouge Days will take place from June 3-7, 2015; the Sustainability Office will have a booth there. Chair Karl Lyew reviewed MEAC's involvement with the Deputy Mayor's Walk in past years.

GLOBALFEST

It was reported that GlobalFest is a 9-Day celebration of the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. This festival will take place on Main Street Unionville South, outside the Markham Pan Am Centre spectator zone, from July 11 to 19. The street will be converted to a pedestrian street festival with a different theme each day. Jennifer Wong reported that the Sustainability Office will have a booth at GlobalFest; she will check to see if MEAC members may volunteer to help at the booth.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Amol Rao
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:30 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.