



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
April 20, 2015**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Diane Ross, Vice Chair
Chuan Li, Immediate Past Chair
Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Jocelyn Cheung
Adam Poon
Carrie Sally

Regrets

Karl Lyew, Chair
Amol Rao
Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Services
Coordinator

Council

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Staff

Jessica Yau, Sustainability 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 Diane Ross presiding as Chair.

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 MARCH 26, 2015

It was

Moved by Jocelyn Cheung
Seconded by Mark Angelini

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on March 26, 2015 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

- Deputy Mayor Jack Heath advised that the Federal Rouge Park land was transferred to Parks Canada as of April 1, 2015. Deputy Mayor Jack Heath advised that he will prepare a presentation for MEAC about the Rouge National Urban Park.
- Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that Markham has appointed several new members for the Committee.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

- B. Shugg Barbeito will update the list.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. EARTH HOUR EVENT RECAP

It was reported that the event had more exhibitors but approximately the same number of attendees as last year. It was suggested that, for future events, MEAC have a banner for its table. It was also suggested that Rock the Bike would add to the event although its availability would need to be confirmed and volunteer peddlers would need to be recruited. The Committee discussed the possibility of combining the Earth Hour event with either the Earth Month event or other Markham festivals to obtain greater exposure for exhibitors; it was agreed that this might be difficult since they are focussed on different target audiences.

B. EARTH MONTH EVENT RECAP

The Committee discussed the results of the Earth Month event held on April 11, 2015 at the Thornhill Community Centre. It was noted that there may not have been as many attendees as at last year's event but those that did attend were more engaged in learning about environmental issues. The Committee noted that the Community Centre staff were very helpful. Rock the Bike was a popular feature of the event. Attendees commented favourably that Mayor Scarpitti and Markham councillors stayed to chat with them.

The Committee noted the following details that could be improved for future events:

- The Committee could promote the event with local newspapers in addition to promotional efforts by Markham;
- It would be helpful for MEAC representatives and Markham staff to meet early to discuss the event and agree on action items;
- Markham staff would prefer to have only one MEAC contact person;
- Exhibitors need to be confirmed earlier;
- The e-waste collection outside was very popular so the Committee may wish to consider holding some workshops outside;

It was suggested that the Committee may wish to consider holding Earth Month events at other venues that would attract more attendees. It was agreed that Markville Mall is likely to attract the highest number of attendees; however, mall management has imposed restrictions on the event activities. Jocelyn Cheung agreed to survey the space around the food court and other common areas at Markville Mall to determine whether it would be feasible to hold an Earth Month event there.

The Committee discussed the possibility of promoting electric vehicles and car plug-ins and will consider inviting Graham Seaman, Senior Manager, Sustainability, as well as Plug 'n Drive Ontario, to give presentations on these topics at future meetings.

C) ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SYMPOSIUM PLANNING

Jessica Yau advised that it was necessary to confirm plans for the EAC Symposium.

On behalf of the Markham Environmental Advisory committee (MEAC), Jennifer Wong sent an invite to other municipalities' environmental committees to attend the 2015 Provincial EAC Symposium. Both existing and recently appointed MEAC members are able to register for the EAC symposium through the Contact Centre and to have the registration fee waived.

Chair Karl Lyew attended via teleconference for a few moments; he advised that he had not selected a keynote speaker and would be agreeable to any format recommended by the Committee. Chuan Li will serve as the emcee for the day. The Committee agreed on the following agenda:

8:30 - 9:00 - Registration and Breakfast

9:00 - 9:20 - Introductions - speeches from Mayor Scarpitti, Deputy Mayor Heath, Chair Karl Lyew

9:20 - 9:30 - MEAC Presentation – Karl Lyew and Phil Ling

9:30 - 9:45 - Oshawa EAC Presentation Suzanne Elston

9:45 - 10:05 - Icebreaker / Introductions to each other

10:05 - 10:20 - TRCA/ SNAP

10:20 - 10:30 - Break and networking

10:30 - 11:45 - Panel Discussion

11:45 - 12:30 - Lunch and networking

12:30 - 12:50 - Waste Diversion: clear bag program, Deputy Mayor Jack Heath and Claudia Marsales

12:50 - 1:50 - Parks Canada?

1:50 - 2:10 – Nory Takata, Markham Operations

Some concern was expressed that the event was not scheduled long enough into the afternoon.

Outstanding tasks for the Sustainability Office include:

- Connect with UHS Eco Club
- Complete Mayor Event Request Form
- Order catering for breakfast and lunch
- Confirm the media advisory with Corporate Communications
- Coordinate the registration process
- Send agenda to all participants a week prior to the meeting

Outstanding tasks for MEAC include:

- Finalize the agenda as soon as possible in order to confirm the Mayor's availability to attend the event;
- Provide a FAQ sheet or speaking notes sheet for the Contact Centre (where attendees will pay/ask for info);
- Request Suzanne Elston to update the EAC website;
- Email the invitation to MEAC contacts from other EACs, and request that they bring brochures/resources;
- Confirm speakers as soon as possible:
 - Neetika Sathe, PowerStream
 - Nory Takata, Operations Markham
 - Dave Douglas, Vision Quest Environment
 - Richard Lazlo, QUEST Canada
 - Deputy Mayor Jack Heath and Claudia Marsales (Clear Bag program)
 - Adriana Gomez, TRCA (to be confirmed)
 - Parks Canada (to be confirmed by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath's office)
- Decide on style of panel discussion
- Decide on panel facilitator
- Work on MEAC presentation
- Decide on set-up for Canada Room: tables/ vendors/ lunch
- Confirm potential exhibitors

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

Bev Shugg Barbeito reported that the Clerk's Office advised that the Committee had representatives on the following Markham committees:

- Cycling & Pedestrian Committee
- Agriculture Advisory Committee
- Environmental Issues Committee

Committee members asked that this information be reviewed by the Clerk's Office 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.

E) NATURAL HERITAGE INTERFACE GUIDELINES

It was previously reported that the Planning department is seeking input by April 24, 2015 from MEAC members about the Natural Heritage Interface Guidelines. Chuan Li will send a reminder to Committee members about this and will coordinate the response for MEAC.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

None was identified.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Chuan Li

Seconded by Jocelyn Cheung

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:35 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.

Mark Angelini, Jocelyn Cheung, Karl Lyew,