



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES April 21, 2011

ATTENDANCE

Members

Tom Rado, Chair
Mylene Batista Bezerra
Phil Fung
James Lin
Philip Ling
Erika Lontoc
Carrie Sally
Dennis Yip
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Regrets

Lloyd Helferty
Brent Mersey
Zahra Parhizgari
Christopher Sauer
Erica Tsang

Guests

Janice Martin
Dave DeSylva, Del Ridge Homes
Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator,
Environmental Planning & Rouge Park
Tim Lambe, Manager, Policy and Research

Staff

Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:10 PM with Mr. Tom Rado presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with the following additions:
- 2nd Annual Deputy Mayor's Walk

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 17, 2011, MARCH 17, 2011 AND APRIL 9, 2011

It was

Moved by James Lin
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) held on February 17, 2011 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

It was

Moved by Carrie Sally
Seconded by James Lin

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) held on March 17, 2011 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

It was

Moved by Philip Ling
Seconded by Carrie Sally

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) held on April 9, 2011 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. MEAC GOALS for 2011

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

B. COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE UPDATE

There were no new developments to report.

C. CORPORATE OUTREACH

Carrie Sally reported that she had contacted Richard Cunningham, Executive Director Markham Board of Trade. She introduced him to MEAC and Mayor Scarpitti's suggestion that MEAC partner with the Markham Board of Trade to host an event in fall 2011 to facilitate outreach to small and medium sized businesses. The goals of the event would be to engage attendees in, and to promote networking of, sustainability practices. Following Committee discussion, it was agreed that, in order to contain costs, either a networking breakfast or evening reception with a speaker to highlight environmental initiatives, would be appropriate. Next steps include asking Mayor Scarpitti and Deputy Mayor Heath to invite a speaker and to include the event in their schedules.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. LETTER FROM JOAN JENKYN RE: EAST DON RIVER

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

B. TOWN OF MARKHAM OFFICIAL PLAN

Tim Lambe, Manager, Policy and Research and Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator, Environmental Planning & Rouge Park met with the Committee to present information about the Town's Official Plan process as part of the stakeholder consultation program. Several other consultation sessions, including a special meeting of Council on April 12, 2011, have been planned to provide opportunities to suggest changes to the new Official Plan as part of its review.

Mr. Lambe distributed and reviewed a multi-page document entitled "Markham's New Official Plan - Towards A Sustainable Community". The Town of Markham has grown and changed dramatically in the last several years; it needs a new Official Plan to update Town policies to guide land use planning, growth management and development approval to 2031, and how these may be integrated with other Town initiatives for managing sustainable economic, environmental and social change. The foundation of the new Official Plan will be Markham's endorsed growth alternative which takes an 'environment first' approach starting with the identification and protection of a Town-wide Greenway System. It also identifies the amount, and location of population and employment growth for Markham to 2031. Many other strategic objectives, such as maintaining a prosperous and competitive economy and celebrating the Town's unique character and cultural diversity, will also be considered in the preparation of the new Official Plan.

C. GREEN LIFE CORPORATE CENTRE - NET ZERO PROJECT

Dave DeSylva, partner at Del Ridge Homes, presented information about the Green Life Corporate Centre in Markham - the first net zero office building in Canada with zero carbon footprint. When complete, the corporate centre will be a 4 storey office building at Kennedy Road just south of the 407; it will be powered exclusively by renewable energy resources - wind, sun, and geothermal energy.

Convinced that Canada is one of the countries using the greatest amount of energy and that we need to reduce energy consumption, Mr. DeSylva advised that this project includes features that either reduce energy, such as underground parking with an enclosed ramp which does not have to be heated in the winter, or create energy, such as a large solar array on the roof. Mr. DeSylva advised that the project is unique in Canada but would be considered standard in areas such as Scandinavia and Germany. When construction is complete in fall 2011, it may be possible for Committee members to tour the building.

D. 2nd ANNUAL DEPUTY MAYOR'S WALK

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath advised that he felt the April 9th planning session was very productive. One of the goals of the June 11th walk is to develop pathway options from Milne Park through Rouge Valley land. Deputy Mayor Jack Heath requested the Committee consider paying the rental cost for a vehicle to be used to pick up participants from the various exit points; last year's cost was approximately \$300.

It was

Moved by Philip Ling
Seconded by James Lin

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) pay the rental cost for a vehicle to be used to pick up participants during the June 11th walk, at an approximate cost of \$300.

Carried

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday May 19, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.