



**MINUTES**  
***ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE***

**Date: April 12, 2011**

**1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Canada Room**

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**Members**

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath  
Regional Councillor Joe Li  
Councillor Valerie Burke  
Lloyd Helferty, Markham Environmental  
Advisory Committee (MEAC)

**Regrets**

Councillor Logan Kanapathi

**Staff**

Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Environmental Policy and  
Program Development  
Karen Boniface, Technical Coordinator, Operations  
Linda Irvine, Manager, Parks & Open Space Planning  
Claudia Marsales, Manager, Waste Management  
Nory Takata, Parks Planner  
David Pearce, Manager Real Property  
Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator  
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Environmental Issues Committee convened at 1:17 p.m. with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath as Chair.

**1. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR**

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke  
Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That Deputy Mayor Jack Heath be appointed as the Chair of the Environmental Issues Committee.

CARRIED

**2. BETTER PLANET INVESTMENTS**

Mr. David Pearce, Manager Real Property addressed the Committee to advise that Mr. Robert Orland, Better Planet Investments will be in attendance at the May 5, 2011 Environmental Issues Committee to provide a brief overview of his company and experience. Mr. Orland will also outline what he proposes to do for the Town of Markham regarding the acquisition of Council approved strategic land acquisitions.

There was discussion regarding properties that extend over watercourses and how those properties will be dealt with.

**3. MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY  
FUND (MESF) APPLICATIONS**

**COMMUNITY APPLICATIONS**

Ms. Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Environmental Policy and Program Development advised the Committee that there are three more MESF applications that will be considered at the May 5, 2011 Environmental Issues Committee meeting.

**i) St. Patrick's School**

Staff summarized the application from Kim Omoto requesting \$5000.00 for a rain garden and outdoor classroom at St. Patrick's School

The Committee suggested that staff explore whether the school would be interested in monitoring bird strikes against the windows and possibly applying the Bird Safe Film on the windows. It was also suggested exploring with the School Board if they would be interested in partnering with respect to sharing information related to the benefits of the Bird Safe Film.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke  
Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the funding application from Kim Omoto requesting \$5000.00 for a rain garden and outdoor classroom at St. Patrick's School be approved.

CARRIED

**ii) 3<sup>rd</sup> Unionville – Scouts Canada**

Staff summarized the application from Pedral Cheng requesting \$2,400.00 for an educational and aerial photo/natural heritage signage at Milton Fierheller Park. Staff pointed out that they are very active in the Community and that they are partnering with the Town of Markham in the Trees for Tomorrow program.

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li  
Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the funding application from Pedral Cheng (Group Commissioner, 3rd Unionville - Scouts Canada) requesting \$2,400 for an educational and aerial photo/natural heritage signage at Milton Fierheller Park be approved.

CARRIED

**iii) James Robinson Public School**

Staff summarized the application from Jeanette McLellan (teacher at James Robinson Public School) requesting \$4,272.00 for a wheelchair accessible sensory garden. Staff advised there is an organic water recycling funded project currently underway at this school and that has not been completed to date. This new application requires an exemption by the Committee, to be approved. Staff pointed out that the two projects are linked as the organic waste from the first project would be used in the sensory garden for special needs students.

The Committee suggested that staff forward the information of this project to Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility Coordinator.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That Committee approve an exemption to the MESF requirement that states that community projects must be completed and reported on before further project funding is considered given this project is directly related to the organics program underway; and,

That the funding application from Jeanette McLellan (teacher at James Robinson Public School) requesting \$4,272.00 for a wheelchair accessible sensory garden be approved.

CARRIED

**iv) Markham Lions Club**

Staff summarized the application from Ken Harris, Lions Club Project Committee requesting \$2,500.00 for native plant material and educational and aerial photo/natural heritage signage at Carman Lewis Park. Staff pointed out that Markham Parks staff has also agreed to assist with this project.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the funding application from Ken Harris, Lions Club Project Committee requesting \$2,500.00 for native plant material and educational and aerial photo/natural heritage signage at Carman Lewis Park be approved.

CARRIED

**v) Ontario Streams**

Staff summarized the application from Peter Davis, Project Coordinator, Ontario Streams requesting \$7,000.00 for plant material as part of a Little Rouge and Robinson Creek rehabilitation initiative.

The Committee inquired if this is an annual request. Staff advised that successful rehabilitation projects have been undertaken by this group in other locations in the past that will assist in protecting and expanding the natural habitat.

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li

Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the funding application from Peter Davis, Project Coordinator, Ontario Streams requesting \$7,000.00 for plant material as part of a Little Rouge and Robinson Creek rehabilitation initiative be approved provided that all Town of Markham and Ministry of Natural Resources approvals and permits are obtained and that they work with the Town of Markham Parks staff on delivery of this project.

CARRIED

## **NATIVE NORTH AMERICAN PLANT SOCIETY PROGRAM**

Ms. Karen Boniface, Parks Department, advised the Committee that the Native North American Plant Society program that included informative brochures on invasive plants and native plants was a very successful program. She advised that there is approximately \$3,000.00 remaining and are requesting that the funds be used to do a republication of the two brochures and a Workshop in the Fall 2011.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the remaining \$3000.00 be used for the Native North American Plant Society to do a republication of the two brochures and a Workshop in the Fall 2011; and,

That the brochures meet the Commission's sustainable paper guideline requirements.

**CARRIED**

## **4. MARKHAM TREES FOR TOMORROW FUND APPLICATIONS**

i) Staff summarized the application by 10,000 Trees for the Rouge Valley.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the funding application by 10,000 Trees for the Rouge Valley requesting \$23,000 for tree planting at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue west of Reesor Rd. in Bob Hunter Park be approved.

**CARRIED**

ii) Staff summarized the application from Friends of the Rouge Watershed.

There was brief discussion regarding the multiple funding sources that each group relies on.

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li

Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the funding application by Friends of the Rouge Watershed requesting \$30,000 for tree planting at four restoration sites within the Town of Markham be approved.

**CARRIED**

iii) Staff summarized the program indicating that this is the forth season.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the funding application by Evergreen requesting \$27,530 for restoration plantings and stewardship events in a number of parks within the Town of Markham be approved.

CARRIED

iv) Staff summarized the application by LEAF. Staff advised that Markham was the first municipality to bring LEAF into York Region.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the funding application by LEAF requesting \$30,000 to provide expert advice through on site consultations, for appropriate species selection, delivery, planting and post-planting maintenance education, in their comprehensive subsidized Backyard Tree Planting program be approved; and,

That LEAF will provide learning opportunities in Markham, such as a Fall session of their Tree Tenders Workshop for residents interested in learning more about trees and their role in our Urban Forests.

CARRIED

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

Staff advised that all Members of Council were invited to a Special Meeting of the Clean Air Council on Friday, May 27, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the McLaughlin Library and Gallery in Oshawa. To date there are no Members of Council that have confirmed their attendance. Staff will provide information and assist with registration for any Members of Council who might wish to attend.

Staff advised the Committee that the Environmental Assessment for the South East Collector Enhancement Projects: Selection Process has been approved. Staff also advised that there is approximately \$680,000.00 remaining and that staff will be working with York Region to ensure the identified projects are reasonable and feasible. Staff will provide further details at the May 5th Environmental Issues Committee meeting.

Ms. Claudia Marsales, Manager, Waste Management suggested that there be representative of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) during the waste diversion discussions. There was discussion regarding whether a sub-committee of the Environmental Issues Committee should be created and invite other Members of Council to attend.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the Chair of the Environmental Issues Committee determine the Members of Council to be invited for discussion purposes for the waste diversion meetings.

CARRIED

Staff advised that on April 19, 2011 there will be a tree planting event at the David Suzuki Public School. Staff will send a meeting request to all Members of Council.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 10:00 AM in the Canada Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Environmental Issues Committee adjourned at 3:00 p.m.