



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES February 17, 2011

ATTENDANCE

Members

Tom Rado, Chair
Mylene Batista Bezerra
Phil Fung
James Lin
Erika Lontoc
Zahra Parhizgari
Christopher Sauer
Erica Tsang
Dennis Yip
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Regrets

Lloyd Helferty
Philip Ling
Brent Mersey
Carrie Sally

Guests

Janice Martin
Councillor Valerie Burke

Staff

Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:12 PM with Mr. Tom Rado presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with the following additions:

- Greenprint presentation
- Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee - Update
- Committee Members Biographies
- OSEA Webinar
- Master Plan Study for Milne Park
- 2nd Annual Deputy Mayor's Walk

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 20, 2011

It was noted that the names of committee member Mylene Batista Bezerra and guest Janice Martin were reported incorrectly in the attendance list. The minutes were accepted with the correction of the names.

It was

Moved by James Lin
Seconded by Erica Tsang

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) held on January 20, 2011 be adopted as amended.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. MEAC GOALS for 2011

Vice Chair Chris Sauer reviewed the twelve potential goals suggested during discussion at the January 2011 meeting. Committee members then selected the five goals they each saw as priorities for MEAC. The top five goals selected were:

- Engaging Town staff and Councillors
- Corporate outreach
- Implementing a food forest
- Community Solar initiatives
- MESF outreach

It was noted that two of the twelve potential goals, i.e. Night Sky Protection and support of FLAP, were complementary and that each had votes from different committee members. It was also noted that the Town of Markham has already promoted the Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund and how to apply for funding for local environmental initiatives. Therefore, it was agreed to include as one of the top choices "Night Sky Protection/FLAP policies and bylaws".

Chair Tom Rado suggested that the Committee should ultimately pick only one or two goals on which to focus its efforts in order to achieve great results. Vice Chair Chris Sauer agreed to list tasks associated with the top selections and post the document on the committee website. Committee members were asked to review the information and add feedback prior to the next meeting so that Chris Sauer would be able to present the results at the March meeting.

B. COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE UPDATE

No report was available since the committee had not met recently.

C. MEETING WITH MAYOR FRANK SCARPITTI

Chair Tom Rado reported that he, Vice Chair Chris Sauer, and Immediate Past Chair Philip Ling met with Mayor Frank Scarpitti yesterday. They found that Mayor Scarpitti was very receptive to MEAC issues. He made a commitment to have a Town of Markham staff member attend every meeting to brief MEAC members on Town initiatives. Mayor Scarpitti was very impressed with the calibre of members on the MEAC and would like to meet with them two or three times per year for informal discussions on proposed Town of Markham initiatives.

Mayor Scarpitti was also very supportive of MEAC's plans to undertake corporate outreach initiatives. He proposed that MEAC partner with the Markham Board of Trade to host a luncheon, likely in fall 2011. This forum would facilitate outreach to small and medium sized businesses and show them what environmental initiatives others are taking to make a difference for Markham.

D. CORPORATE OUTREACH

No report was available.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. GREENPRINT PRESENTATION

Councillor Valerie Burke reported that the GreenPrint Sustainability Plan will be first presented at the Development Services Committee meeting on February 22, 2011, finalized at the March 7, 2011 meeting and considered by Town of Markham Council in April 2011. The GreenPrint presentation will be posted on the Town of Markham website as of February 18, 2011.

Councillor Valerie Burke, Chair Tom Rado and Vice Chair Chris Sauer will meet to discuss ideas about how best MEAC can help promote the GreenPrint Sustainability Plan, once it has been approved by the Development Services Committee.

B. CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Vice Chair Chris Sauer reported that Bill Golden, a certified trail builder, spoke to committee members about environmental concerns and accessibility issues in building trails. It is hoped that this information will have a positive impact on deliberations for building Markham's paths and trails in the future.

C. COMMITTEE MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Chair Tom Rado advised Committee members that their biographies had been distributed to Town of Markham Council members earlier that day.

D. OSEA WEBINAR

Erika Lontoc shared information about an Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA) webinar on February 24, 2011 that is part of an initiative entitled, "Community Engagement and Partnership Best Practices." The webinar hopes to build excitement and enthusiasm for the initiative's SearchFx event on March 28th and 29th 2011.

E. MASTER PLAN STUDY FOR MILNE PARK

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that, as a result of work conducted by the Milne Park Working Group, it is likely that a master plan study for Milne Park will be established next year.

F. 2nd ANNUAL DEPUTY MAYOR'S WALK

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath recommended that a walk be held on June 11, 2011, going in the opposite direction from last year. It might be possible to promote the walk at the Unionville Festival on June 4, 2011. It will be necessary to study maps to determine the best route for the walk, and a planning session will be held on the weekend of April 9 & 10, 2011.

6. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Chris Sauer
Seconded by James Lin

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:20 PM.

Carried

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday March 17, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.