



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
February 26, 2015**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Karl Lyew, Chair,
Diane Ross, Vice Chair
Kevin Boon
Jocelyn Cheung
Adam Poon
Amol Rao
Carrie Sally
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Regrets

Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator
Chuan Li, Immediate Past Chair
Mark Angelini

Guests

Councillor Colin Campbell
Michelle Gibbons, Assistant to Councillor Colin Campbell

Staff

Jessica Yau
Kiran Saini, Legislative Coordinator, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:10 PM with Karl Lyew 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 MEETINGS HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2015

Moved by Amol Rao
Seconded by Diane Ross

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on January 15, 2015 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Karl Lyew reviewed and indentified the status of action items.

It was noted that a banner to be used to email signatures has been created and will be distributed to the Committee Members upon completion.

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath provided an update on Markham's environmental accomplishments. He noted that the successful implementation of the clear bags program is a notable achievement. The Town of Aurora is developing a clear bag program and it will be very similar to Markham's. There was discussion on the number of initiatives derived from MEAC that have become part of the "end-to-end" of certain processes. For example, solar panels are now considered part of the construction plan in every new building erected in Markham.

March 28, 2015 – Earth Hour Event at Cornell Community Centre

Councillor Colin Campbell advised the Earth Hour event will be held on March 28, 2015 and welcomed the Committee to participate and volunteer for the event. Michelle Gibbons advised that people interested in volunteering for the Earth Hour event will be provided with a t-shirt and sizes need to be provided to her by March 17, 2015. Volunteers from the Committee will be asked to aid in the set up of the lantern lights.

There was discussion on the number of Committee volunteers required, and it was decided that 8 Members were needed to help with event.

Carrie Sally advised that PowerStream will have their mascot attend the event as well.

Discussion ensued on having a drop off for electronic waste at the Earth Hour Event Councillor Colin Campbell will be hosting at the end of March. Given the short time frame, it was noted that this may be considered at the Earth Hour event in 2016 instead.

Councillor Colin Campbell provided a brief summary of the events that will be held.

5:30 pm - set up

6:00 pm - fair will begin

8:00 pm - opening ceremonies and the Mayor will provide opening remarks followed by the lantern walk around the hospital

Hot chocolate will be available for those who attend and arrangements for Cornell Community Centre and Markham Stouffville Hospital to turn off as many lights off as possible have been made.

B FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

5. NEW BUSINESS

Earth Month Events Planning

Amol Rao and Jocelyn Cheung provided an update on the exhibitors that have been contacted to attend the Earth Day event on April 11, 2015 at the Thornhill Community Centre.

Carrie Sally advised she would contact Sheridan Nurseries to see if they were interested in participating in the event.

Amol Rao and Jocelyn Cheung will provide a draft floorplan at the next Committee meeting.

Diane Ross advised the Committee that if a tour of the Thornhill Community Centre could be arranged in early March, she would contact the rest of the Committee to advise them of the date and time.

It was noted that Thornhill Community Centre facility staff will need to be made aware of the set-up/take-down requirements.

There was discussion on approaching the Mayor's Office to see if the Mayor would be available to deliver some remarks during this event. Jessica Yau indicated that she will follow up with Prabh Banga on this matter.

Electronic waste

It was noted that 6-8 volunteers are required for the execution of this attraction. As the Lions' Club has previously been involved in a drop off site for electronic waste, Jessica Yau indicated that she will contact the Club to determine how successful this program was.

Diane Ross will confirm that electronic waste can be collected at the Community Centre, and that there are no restrictions in doing so. She further indicated that she will confirm whether animals are permitted at the Community Centre and will work with City staff in determining this.

Markham District Energy Incorporated (MDEI)

Amol Rao and Jocelyn Cheung will contact MDEI to determine their interest in participating in the event.

Sub-Committee Roles and Responsibilities

The event Sub-Committee will be meeting in early March to determine the appropriate roles and responsibilities. Amol Rao provided a brief summary of the responsibilities of the below Members:

Jocelyn Cheung: exhibitors, workshops and seedling giveaways

Diane Ross: Community Centre and City Staff coordinator.

Amol Rao: Media, marketing and volunteers.

Follow-up

Jessica Yau advised she would provide a contact name for the Thornhill Community Centre and with respect to advertising on the Electronic Information Boards throughout the Community Centre.

b) Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium Planning – May 2, 2015

There was discussion on the symposium that MEAC will be hosting at the Civic Centre in May 2015. Invitations have been sent out to other municipalities' environmental committees. It was noted that the Canada Room has been booked for this event.

Karl Lyew advised the Committee to begin thinking about Keynote Speakers and the agenda. Jessica Yau advised that the Sustainability Office will take care of catering (breakfast and lunch).

There were a number of ideas provided on who could act as a Keynote Speaker; such as Gord Miller, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Dave Douglas, Vision Quest Environment (Karl Lyew indicated that he has spoken with him and Dave has shown interest) or Jay Ingram from Daily Planet.

It was suggested that Graham Seaman, the Director of Sustainability be requested to provide suggestions on an appropriate Keynote Speaker.

c) MEAC Committee 2015 Membership roster

Karl Lyew advised that an information session on the City's advisory boards and committees was held at the Civic Centre in January and the MEAC was represented at this recruitment event.

d) Appointment of MEAC members to other City of Markham Advisory Committee

It was noted that Bev Shugg Barbeito will provide an update on this matter at the next meeting. Chuan Li and Adam Poon have expressed interest in being appointed members to other advisory committees that have a MEAC representation position as part of their composition.

Karl Lyew requested all Committee members investigate any Advisory Committees that they would be interested in being appointed to and express their interest at the next Committee meeting.

Business Cards

It was noted that generic business cards for MEAC have been created and will be distributed at the March meeting.

e) Rouge Days

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath advised that Rouge days this year will be difficult to attend due to previous commitments therefore there would not be a “Deputy Mayor Walk” through the Rouge Park for 2015. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities is holding their annual meeting during this time. The Committee decided not to participate in this event this year and revisit it in 2016.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Environmental Advisory Committee Forum

It was noted that on March 5, 2015, the City of Vaughan will be hosting an Environmental Advisory Committee Forum. Diane Ross and Chuan Li have expressed interested in attending this event.

Forking Good Ideas

Jessica Yau provided a brief summary of York Region’s 4th annual food for change event. It will be held at the Newmarket Community Centre on March 5, 2015. She distributed an agenda with information on how to register for this free event.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.