



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
November 27, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Chuan Li, Chair
Karl Lyew, Vice Chair
Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Jocelyn Cheung
Adam Poon
Diane Ross

Regrets

Phil Fung
Marie LeGrow
James Lin, Immediate Past Chair
Phil Ling
Amol Rao
Carrie Sally
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Council

Regional Councillor Joe Li

Guests

Hammad Din
Regional Councillor Elect Nirmala Armstrong
Annie Chen, Smart Ray Inc.
Nixon Chen, Smart Ray Inc.

Staff

Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:00 PM with Chuan Li 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 JUNE 19, 2014 AND OCTOBER 16, 2014

It was

Moved by Mark Angelini
Seconded by Karl Lyew

THAT the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meetings held on June 19, 2014 and October 16, 2014 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Chuan Li reviewed and identified the status of the action items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. LIGHT BULB REPLACEMENT PLAN

Chair Chuan Li welcomed Annie Chen and Nixon Chen of SmartRay Inc. Nixon Chen advised that SmartRay is a Markham-based company offering energy efficient solutions in the LED lighting industry. It provides a one stop shopping experience with the diversity of Residential LED Lighting, Commercial LED Lighting, Industrial LED Lighting and Decoration Lighting. As a premier lighting brand in Canada, SmartRay Inc. is one of the largest LED Christmas lights and seasonal lighting suppliers.

SmartRay Inc. has created the Markham Green Action Plan to make Markham the first true “green” city. The concept is to encourage Markham residents to conserve energy by dropping off used light bulbs at conveniently located SmartRay booths, and then be rewarded by receiving a \$5.00 rebate coupon for any energy efficient product in SmartRay Inc. inventory. SmartRay Inc. plans to use its profits from selling LED lights to cover the cost of the rebate coupon, in order to help Markham become the first true “green” city. Benefits to Markham include a decrease in energy consumption, better lighting quality, promotion of an environmentally friendly lifestyle and providing a convenient recycling program for light bulbs. In order to implement the plan, SmartRay requires information from Markham about the number of residents and where best to place the recycling booths.

Vice Chair Karl Lyew invited SmartRay Inc. representatives to make its presentation as part of the two Earth Month events in Thornhill and Cornell.

Chair Chuan Li clarified that the Committee cannot commit the City to the proposed plan. Committee discussion focused on the problem of incandescent CFL light bulbs, which contain mercury, being disposed of in the garbage and ending up in landfills.

As a result, it was agreed that the Committee could endorse and recommend to Markham Council the concept proposed by SmartRay Inc.

It was

Moved by Jocelyn Cheung
Seconded by Mark Angelini

THAT the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) endorses the use of LED bulbs and the concept of increasing the diversion rate of incandescent CFL bulbs through incentive programs and educational outreach, and recommends to Markham Council that Markham staff be directed to investigate the benefits of such programs.

CARRIED

B. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair Chuan Li reviewed the Committee practice where the Vice Chair assumes the position of Chair and the Committee elects a new Vice Chair, i.e. the Vice Chair elected for 2015 would assume the role of Chair in January 2016. Chuan Li reported that she had requested Committee members interested in serving as Vice Chair to advise her before the November meeting; no expressions of interest were received. Chair Chuan Li and Vice Chair Karl Lyew led a discussion with Committee members about concerns, including workload, they might have about serving as Vice Chair and/or Chair. Subsequent to the discussion, Diane Ross was nominated as Vice Chair.

It was

Moved by Jocelyn Cheung
Seconded by Mark Angelini

THAT Diane Ross be elected as Vice Chair of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) for a one-year term.

CARRIED

Diane Ross accepted the appointment and advised that she has enjoyed her first year as a Committee member, that the more involved she has been, the more involved she wants to be.

Vice Chair Karl Lyew advised Committee members that Immediate past Chair James Lin has resigned due to a promotion and new work responsibilities. It was recommended that the Committee thank him for his time and dedication to the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee.

C. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

Diane Ross reported on behalf of the Earth Month sub-committee that the Committee will host two Markham Earth Month events: a kickoff event to be scheduled on March 28 in Cornell and a finale event, on April 11 in Thornhill. The theme is yet to be decided.

Mark Angelini confirmed the availability of Rock the Bike; it could be set up in the hallway. It was agreed that a plan is needed to ensure there are enough people to pedal the bike; Amol Rao will contact Thornlea Secondary School to request student volunteers. Prabh Banga will confirm with the Markham legal department whether a sign is needed to warn people pedalling the bike of possible risks.

Possible workshop topics or activities that could be presented include:

- Energy topics including home energy conservation
- Seed Library and Gardening 101
- Presentations by exhibitors
- Downspout Project in Thornhill
- SNAP (Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan) in Bayview Glen
- MEP (Municipal Energy Plan)
- Local Environmental Advisory Committees
- Animal show
- Face painting
- Pan Am Games
- VIVA new travel initiatives
- Samples and giveaways from retailers
- Free popcorn – given away near the entrance

The planning sub-committee would also welcome workshop ideas from Committee members.

It was noted that the survey used in 2014 can be used again.

The Thornhill Community Centre is able to provide 8' long tables, 5' round tables, and sound equipment. Flip charts may also be needed to be used for signs to direct attendees to various exhibits and activities.

Committee members agreed that it would be helpful for MEAC to have its own logo to use on promotional materials. Prabh Banga will submit a request to the Corporate Communications department to create a Markham Earth Month logo. Jocelyn Cheung will also be asked to assist by creating a MEAC logo.

Prabh Banga advised that Corporate Communications will promote the events in a variety of venues including a presence on the Markham events page and in Markham Life.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SYMPOSIUM PLANNING

Prabh Banga reported that sites available on May 16 include the Markham Civic Centre (Canada Room), the Markham Museum and Cornell Community Centre.

It was suggested that a possible theme might be “Partnership”; attendees could learn about the plans and activities of other EACS. MEAC could talk about its Work Plan and showcase the Markham Sustainability Office and its partnerships.

It was agreed that the entire committee will be involved in planning the event.

E. DECEMBER MEETING

It was agreed that the Committee will meet informally on Thursday December 18, 2014 at 7:00 pm at Panera Bread, 3987 Highway 7 Unit 1 (corner Birchmount Road and Highway 7, Phone: 905-479-5888). Chair Chuan Li will invite James Lin.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Chuan Li reported that the Regional EAC Forum is held twice per year; the most recent forum was hosted by the Newmarket EAC in October 2014. Presentation topics included rain gardens and biochar; Chuan Li will forward details of the presentations to Committee members.

Mark Angelini advised that he will be making a presentation on environmental issues to his daughter’s school class. He suggested that MEAC develop a presentation that any Committee member could use for such situations. Prabh Banga will forward information used in Markham’s milk bag presentation.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Mark Angelini
Seconded by Diane Ross

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:05 PM.

CARRIED

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on **Thursday, January 15, 2015** at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.