



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
January 15, 2015**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Karl Lyew, Chair,
Diane Ross, Vice Chair
Chuan Li, Immediate Past Chair
Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Jocelyn Cheung
Adam Poon
Amol Rao
Carrie Sally

Regrets

Phil Fung
Marie LeGrow
James Lin
Phil Ling
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator

Guests

Robert Muir, Manager, Stormwater
Cynthia Tam, Environmental Engineer
Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Advisor

Staff

Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

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 NOVEMBER 27, 2014 AND DECEMBER 18, 2014

It was

Moved by Carrie Sally
Seconded by Chuan Li

THAT the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meetings held on November 27, 2014 and December 18, 2014 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION ON MARKHAM INITIATIVES

Updates prepared by Prabh Banga were made as part of the corresponding agenda items.

B FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Karl Lyew reviewed and identified the status of the action items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. OVERVIEW OF MEP (Municipal Energy Plan) and SNAP (Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan)

Chair Karl Lyew welcomed Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Advisor. Ms. Wong reported that the City of Markham is developing a long term city-wide energy plan, known as the Municipal Energy Plan (MEP) to improve energy efficiency and, reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The MEP will identify opportunities for green energy solutions to support local economic development as well as the Energy and Climate priority in Markham's Community Sustainability Plan and the community target of net zero energy, water, waste and emissions by 2050.

Ms. Wong reported that there are three phases in the two year development of the Municipal Energy Plan:

- Phase 1: Stakeholder Engagement (May 2014 – November 2014)
- Phase 2: Energy Mapping & Study (December 2014 – May 2015)
- Phase 3: Energy Plan Development (June 2015 – June 2016)

The initial phase of the MEP is focused on engaging stakeholders in the MEP concept and identifying preliminary opportunities for energy conservation within all sectors across Markham. Three meetings have been held to date with the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG); these meetings will continue once every quarter until June 2016, upon completion of the MEP. Jocelyn Cheung is MEAC's representative on the SWG.

An RFP is to be developed for recruiting a consultant who will undertake Phase 2 and Phase 3. Phase 2 will focus on gathering data for the Energy heat map, reviewing and analyzing the baseline data, and developing the pilot checklist. Phase 3 will focus on development of the Energy plan, establishing current and future Energy trends based on the Energy heat map, identifying Energy conservation opportunities and solutions, and obtaining Markham Council approval for the final Municipal Energy Plan and funding.

Ms. Wong reported that the City of Markham, in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), is leading the development of a Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plan (SNAP) in the Bayview Glen neighbourhood, one of five similar projects in the GTA. SNAP is a pilot project that aims to accelerate the implementation of sustainable practices to prepare for climate change within an existing neighbourhood.

The Bayview Glen neighbourhood was selected for SNAP because of flood remediation and control work in the area. In addition to improving stormwater management and reducing residential flooding, the Bayview Glen SNAP action-oriented approach will address several GreenPrint Priorities such as:

- Offering an opportunity to address retrofit objectives and advance implementation of the Don Watershed Regeneration Plan;
- Contributing to GreenPrint Energy and Climate priorities through reduction of carbon emissions and other green house gases;
- Addressing long term sustainability of drinking water through fresh water conservation;
- Reviving parks and parkettes;
- Generating financial savings and benefits through energy conservation.

The City of Markham and its partners have implemented a number of outreach initiatives to obtain feedback from residents in the area including a survey, community sessions, community fairs, newsletters and focus groups. Chuan Li advised that she would send Committee members the SNAP questions. Markham is trying to strike a balance between those who want to build large homes and those who wish to keep a “country feel” for the area.

Chair Karl Lyew thanked Jennifer Wong for her presentation.

B. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

Chair Karl Lyew welcomed Robert Muir, Manager Stormwater, and Cynthia Tam, Environmental Engineer. Stormwater Management is a municipal service that includes the transport and treatment of rainwater and snow melt that runs off in the community. It also includes the restoration of river systems to protect critical infrastructure such as bridges and trunk sewers – and to improve the habitat of sensitive species.

In February 2013, Markham Council approved a 30-year project period to increase the level of service up to a 100-year storm protection. Markham’s Stormwater Management Strategy includes activities to provide flood control, erosion control, watercourse management and the maintenance of stormwater management facilities. These activities

manage both the quantity and the quality of water released into creeks and rivers or absorbed into the ground. The strategy is carried out in close partnership with local and provincial agencies that have roles in regulation of water resources and natural heritage systems.

During the past three decades, the practice of stormwater management has evolved. In the mid 1970s, attempts to control runoff flow rates from urban developments were initiated. In the 1980s, water quality became an additional focus and in the 1990s, approaches to mitigate erosion were introduced. Current stormwater management addresses a number of issues including stream channel forming processes, groundwater resources and the protection of aquatic habitats. As a result, there is increasing interest in decentralized micro-controls at or near runoff source areas in addition to traditional practices. Often referred to as Low Impact Development (LID), these approaches attempt to mimic natural hydrology through site planning and structural practices aimed at infiltrating, filtering, evaporating and detaining runoff, as well as decreasing erosion and preventing pollution. However, LID practices can be applied in new developments, during re-development or as retrofits to older developments. Mr. Muir reviewed Markham's LID projects at the Honda campus and Bill Crothers Secondary School, and other best practices including rain barrels, downspout disconnect program and rain gardens.

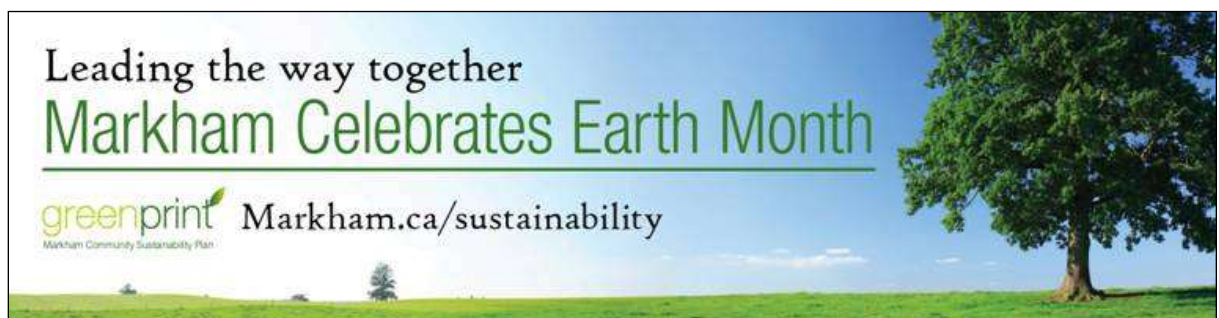
Chair Karl Lyew thanked Robert Muir and Cynthia Tam for their presentation. He invited Ms. Wong, Mr. Muir and Ms. Tam to participate in MEAC's Earth Month event at the Thornhill Community Centre on April 11, 2015.

Ms. Wong, Mr. Muir and Ms. Tam left the meeting at 8:40 pm.

C. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

Chair Karl Lyew reported on behalf of Prabh Banga that

- A report on the plans for Earth Month will be submitted to Council at the end of January. This report recommends to Council to proclaim April as Earth Month with the kickoff event as the Earth Hour event on March 28 and the Earth Month celebration on April 11 at Thornhill Community Centre;
- Communication and advertising for Earth Month events will be consolidated;
- Corporate Communications will design the poster. It will include all Earth Day events, similar to a concert poster with various dates.
- The preliminary design of the banner (below) has been created



Committee discussion about the proposed banner resulted in these suggestions:

- Include something visual to better reflect Markham
- Include a call to action, e.g. “For all the details visit”
- Include a reference to MEAC
- Make the poster “fun”

The Earth Month sub-committee will discuss ideas for the poster with Prabh Banga.

MEAC 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. It was suggested that a flyer promoting the April 11th event be developed to hand out at the March 28th event.

Mark Angelini was asked to confirm the availability of Rock the Bike for the March 28th event as well as for the April 11th event. Prabh Banga has confirmed with the Markham legal department that a sign is needed to warn bike peddlers to “Use at Your Own Risk”.

Chair Karl Lyew suggested that MEAC consider collecting e-waste at the April 11th event with an opportunity to earn incentive fees via one of these options:

- a) partner with Kimberley Dunsmoor and the Waste Management team who will outsource the collection event to the Maple Lions Club. The Lions Club will run and co-ordinate and collect the incentive fees from OES.
- b) partner with OES and allow OES to co-ordinate the collection; no incentive fees would be earned by MEAC.
- c) register the MEAC Earth Month event with OES; MEAC would coordinate the event and OES would train MEAC volunteers, drop off and collect the e-waste bin at end of day. MEAC would be required to assign volunteers to direct the public to the designated drop off area. /MEAC would be eligible for an incentive fee of \$185/tonne of e-waste collected.

In order to avoid any conflict of interest, Karl Lyew declared his involvement with OES and has delegated all future correspondence and discussions with OES to the Earth Month Sub-Committee co-chairs; they will contact Sharon Smith of OES to discuss the details in order to make a recommendation to the Committee.

Amol Rao reported that a draft letter is ready for use in recruiting exhibitors. Suggested exhibitors include Green Food Workshop by Whole Foods, Home Depot, Community Gardens, MEP and SNAP, and Markham Library. He requested that Earth Month sub-committee members contact exhibitors to confirm their participation, so that a layout plan can be developed.

Amol Rao will contact Thornlea Secondary School to request student volunteers.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SYMPOSIUM PLANNING

Chair Karl Lyew reported on behalf of Prabh Banga that she has booked the Civic Center - The Great Hall (lobby) and the Canada Room for May 2, 2015 from 9am to 4pm for this event. Committee members discussed and agreed that \$20 to cover the cost of food would be an appropriate fee for attendees. Chair Karl Lyew will liaise with Prabh Banga to discuss further details.

E. BLUE DOT

At the December meeting, Adam Poon introduced the Blue Dot concept - protecting the right to clean air, fresh water and healthy food for all Canadians so that they benefit from a healthy environment. Chair Karl Lyew reported on behalf of Prabh Banga that the recommendation was made that the City of Markham adopt the Blue Dot environmental declaration. Ms. Banga will work with the David Suzuki foundation to make changes reflecting Markham's current GreenPrint Sustainability Plan before the declaration is adopted. She will share the recommended changes at the next meeting

F. MEAC BUSINESS CARD

A copy of the proposed "MEAC business card" was circulated among Committee members. Chair Karl Lyew will discuss with Prabh Banga the possibility of adding the names and email addresses of Committee members.

Addendum: Chair Karl Lyew advised that he requested a design change from "*Volunteer Member*" to "*Committee Member*". He learned that the cards could not be personalized but a line could be included for MEAC members to include their name/contact info should they choose to do so. This allows for the card to be generic enough for future use by any MEAC member.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Committee members requested information about the other Markham Committees for which MEAC has a representative and where Committee information is located on the Markham website.
- Committee members agreed to move the February and March meetings to February 26 and March 26 respectively.
- It was agreed to invite Councillor Colin Campbell to attend the February 26, 2015 meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Amol Rao
Seconded by	Diane Ross

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:30 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

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