



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
June 19, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Chuan Li, Chair
Karl Lyew, Vice Chair
Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Jocelyn Cheung
Marie LeGrow
Phil Ling
Adam Poon
Amol Rao
Diane Ross
Vern Ricksen Tam

Regrets

James Lin, Immediate Past Chair
Phil Fung
Amanda Napoli
Carrie Sally

Council

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

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 7:05 PM with Chuan Li presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with the following additions:

- Social Media
- Replacement of light bulbs

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 22, 2014

It was

Moved by Jocelyn Cheung
Seconded by Diane Ross

THAT the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on May 22, 2014 be adopted with the following change *in italics*:

E. EARTH DAY WRAP UP

Chair Chuan Li advised that the Earth Day 2014 event was the most ambitious event organized by MEAC in 3 – 5 years; it featured booths for 15 different organizations, 5 acts on stage, a Lion Dance with an Earth Day theme, and Rock the Bike, at a community event for the first time. She thanked Deputy Mayor Jack Heath for his ideas and input into stage events, Regional Councillor Joe Li for arranging sponsorship of the MEAC banner, Prabh Banga for providing supplies and connections to the City, and Committee members such as Karl Lyew for overall coordination of the event; Amol Rao for artwork of the MEAC banner; Jocelyn Cheung for artwork and printing of the poster, bookmark and passports; Diane Ross for creating a survey for attendees and compiling the results; Adam Poon for coordinating audio/visual matters; Carrie Sally for assistance in many aspects of the event; Mark Angelini for coordinating Rock the Bike; Kevin Boon for single-handedly manning the popcorn machine during the entire event; Adam Poon who shared emcee duties, *Amanda Napoli and Diane Ross* for taking pictures; and all Committee members who assisted on the day of the event.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION REPORTS – MARKHAM INITIATIVES

Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator, reported that

- the Markham Annual Report is available online; a large portion of the report is devoted to Sustainability issues;
- the Sustainability Office is developing an Earth Friendly Guidelines campaign for residents; a webpage and pamphlet will be developed to support it;
- the Community Gardens on Kirkham Drive, in Cornell, and at the Markham Fairgrounds, are now open and “growing”;
- textiles may be dropped off at Recycling Depots; and
- Committee members may bring used plastic milk bags to meetings; they will be recycled and woven into mats.

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that legislation to create the Rouge National Park was introduced last week.

Regional Councillor Joe Li reported that Markham Council approved a study for underground waste management systems.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. MEAC WORK PLAN UPDATE

Chair Chuan Li led Committee members in discussion of the MEAC Terms of Reference. Committee members questioned whether there should be a formal mechanism for the Committee to receive information and provide advice about Markham initiatives related to environmental issues, much like the Committee's name implies. It was noted that two Regional Councillors and a Markham staff member attend MEAC meetings to support the Committee. Although it was reported that MEAC is able to provide input and is fortunate compared with other Environmental Advisory Committees in Ontario, which find it difficult to have their input accepted, the Committee expressed the desire to be more involved in an advisory capacity to Markham Council.

Chair Chuan Li outlined the Committee's advisory role as proactive (request staff presentations on topical issues such as the Parkland dedication policy and pass resolutions for recommendations to [Markham Council) and reactive (responding to requests for stakeholder consultation such as the MEP). While the Committee did not control the reactive side, everyone was encouraged to be as proactive as possible in raising issues that they feel should be discussed in MEAC meetings. Prabh Banga offered to work with the MEAC Chair during development of future agendas to inform of areas, if any, where MEAC can have an advisory role.

Chair Chuan Li reviewed the proposed MEAC Work Plan subdivided into three sections: Advise (specific initiatives and other committees), Learn (presentations from Markham staff and other organizations such as the Parkland dedication policy, underground waste management systems, and storm water systems), and Outreach (through Earth Hour, Earth Day, support for Markham initiatives such as the Clear Bag campaign, Deputy Mayor's Walk, and Rouge Days). Prabh Banga offered to work with the MEAC Chair to develop agendas to reflect the Work Plan.

Vice Chair Karl Lyew reported that the Environmental Issues Committee distributed MESF funding for two projects: replanting of evergreen trees, and the James Robinson School project to create accessible pathways.

B. ROUGE DAYS AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S WALK

Chair Chuan Li reported that she and Phil Fung attended the Kickoff Event on June 5 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm.; there is a possibility that the Kickoff event will be held at Toogood Pond next year. Rouge Days was held from June 5 – 8, 2014.

Karl Lyew reported that the Rouge Days committee was very organized with signage, t-shirts, and pamphlets to promote the events. Every stakeholder had an event during Rouge Days, including the Deputy Mayor's Annual Walk along Markham's Rouge River Valley from the Milne Dam Conservation Area to Toogood Pond.

MEAC partnered with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath to assist with registration, serve as group leaders, and host a photo scavenger hunt as part of the walk. Chair Chuan Li showed the final scavenger hunt card and reported that one participant was able to take pictures of seven of the nine items; he and four other participants received prizes. Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that the walk and scavenger hunt were mentioned in NOW magazine, and that the walk will be held again next year with a different route.

C. Municipal Energy Plan (MEP) Stakeholder Working Group (SWG)

Chair Chuan Li reminded Committee members that, at the last meeting, Warren Rupnarian, Accessibility Coordinator, reported that the City of Markham was developing a long term city-wide energy plan. It was reported that the initial phase of the MEP will focus on engaging stakeholders in the MEP concept and identifying preliminary opportunities for energy conservation within all sectors across Markham.

An initial meeting with the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) was held on May 27, 2014; future meetings will be held once every quarter for the next two years until the completion of the MEP. Jocelyn Cheung attended the May 27 meeting and will share the minutes of the meeting when they are available. She reported that many stakeholders such as Enbridge, PowerStream, York Region District School Board, York Region Catholic School Board, and York Region Planning, also attended. The MEP hopes to have Markham reduce its energy consumption by 1.8 million kWh over four years. At the next meeting, the SWG will develop milestones to meet this target. An RFP for creation of an energy plan will be drafted by a consultant. It is thought that MEAC will be able to provide outreach efforts to the community and feedback to the SWG.

D. EARTH DAY PLANNING

Vice Chair Karl Lyew suggested that MEAC select an Earth Day Sub-committee before the summer break so that planning for Earth Day 2015 may begin. Adam Poon, Amol Rao, Chuan Li, Jocelyn Cheung, Mark Angelini, Karl Lyew and Diane Ross volunteered to serve on the Sub-committee. A Chair of the Sub-committee will be selected by its members.

Diane Ross reported that the Thornhill Community Centre is available as a venue for MEAC's Earth Day event on April 18, 2015; the community centre attracts crowds since families visit the library and pool on weekends. She showed photos of the event rooms and meeting halls and will check on the availability of tables and chairs at the community centre. Diane Ross will draft a proposal regarding MEAC's plans for the event for review by the Sub-committee and Committee, to ultimately be shared with the management of the Thornhill Community Centre.

Prabh Banga suggested that MEAC consider hosting two events in one "Earth Month" rather than participating in Earth Hour in March and Earth Day in April. Feedback from

Markham residents is that two events in different months are confusing and that having two events in the same month would be preferable. The Earth Day Sub-committee will discuss this issue and make a recommendation to the Committee.

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath left the meeting at 8:40 pm.

E. ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SYMPOSIUM PLANNING

Karl Lyew reported that he and Prabh Banga had attended a Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Symposium hosted by the City of Brampton's EAC. Prabh Banga reported that the presentations by municipalities such as the one by Oshawa – a year round campaign, with a different theme for each month.

The Committee discussed the feasibility of hosting the next EAC Symposium in May 2015. It was noted that it would give MEAC an excellent opportunity to meet other EAC representatives from across Ontario, as well as to learn great ideas from their success stories for engaging and achieving community collaboration on environmental and sustainable development initiatives.

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew

Seconded by Diane Ross

THAT the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) host the 2015 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Symposium.

CARRIED

Rick Tam, Karl Lyew, Prabh Banga, Chuan Li, and Diane Ross volunteered to serve on a sub-committee to plan the event.

Karl Lyew will advise the host of the 2014 EAC Symposium that MEAC would like to host the 2015 EAC Symposium.

F. MEAC ENERGY AWARDS

Adam Poon suggested that MEAC consider creating an award for developers/builders who construct green buildings, similar to the Aim to Sustain award or the award given by the Accessibility Committee for developers who incorporate accessibility features in their projects. Committee members liked the idea but realized that it would entail considerable work to promote the award to generate applications, then reviewing the applications to select and award a winner. This could be difficult for MEAC to handle alone although it might be possible to partner with another organization such as the Markham Board of Trade to offer a joint award.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. SOCIAL MEDIA

Rick Tam advised he had learned that Corporate Communications would not allow separate web pages or Twitter accounts for MEAC. Prabh Banga advised that she could forward any MEAC messages to Markham's Social Media Coordinator for distribution.

B. LIGHTBULBS REPLACEMENT

It was agreed to have Regional Councillor Joe Li invite a representative from SmartRay LED to make a presentation at the September meeting about a plan involving replacement of old light bulbs. SmartRay LED was an exhibitor at both Councillor Campbell's Earth Hour and the MEAC Earth Day events earlier this year.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Rick Tam
Seconded by Karl Lyew

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:15 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Markham Civic Centre.