



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
October 16, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Chuan Li, Chair
Karl Lyew, Vice Chair
Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Phil Ling
Adam Poon
Amol Rao
Diane Ross

Regrets

Jocelyn Cheung
Phil Fung
Marie LeGrow
James Lin, Immediate Past Chair
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 7:15 PM with Chuan Li presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed, although it was noted that the MEP and SNAP presentation would be deferred to a future meeting.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

It was

Moved by Jocelyn Cheung
Seconded by Diane Ross

THAT the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on September 18, 2014 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

The minutes of the June 19, 2014 meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION REPORTS – MARKHAM INITIATIVES

Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator, reported that:

- Workshops on winter garden topics are being offered free for Markham residents.
- A tour of the community gardens for interested MEAC members could be considered as part of the agenda for the Provincial EAC Symposium.
- Plans are underway for allotment and community gardens in 2015. Markham hopes to recruit a community group interested in starting a garden project.
- There will be opportunities for MEAC members to provide advice and assistance with the review of the Municipal Energy Plan. Ms. Banga will ask Jennifer Wong to email to Committee members her presentation on MEP (Municipal Energy Plan) and SNAP (Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan).

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair Chuan Li 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)

This presentation was deferred to a future meeting.

B. COMMITTEE MEMBER DIRECTORY

Chair Chuan Li reminded Committee members to provide contact information for the Committee Member directory.

C. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair Chuan Li advised that at the end of each year, as per Committee practice to ensure continuity, the Vice Chair assumes the position of Chair and the Committee elects a new Vice Chair. The Vice Chair elected for 2015 would then take over the Chair position in January 2016. Chuan Li advised that she would send Committee members an email asking that, if they were interested in serving as Vice Chair, they submit to her by November 21, 2014 a short explanation of why they would make a good Vice Chair. The expressions of interest would then be circulated to the Committee members in advance of the November 2014 meeting when the election of the Vice Chair would take place.

D. MEAC WORK PLAN UPDATE

Chair Chuan Li reviewed the MEAC Work Plan themes: 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 Days).

Following discussion, the following changes were made:

- in the center – “GreenPrint” was added
- in the Outreach section
 - “Earth Day/Hour events” was replaced with “Earth Month events”
 - “Community engagement” was added
- in the Stay Informed section, the following items were added
 - “Receive other Committee updates”
 - “Participate in site tours”
 - “Coordinate with other municipalities”

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew

Seconded by Kevin Boon

THAT the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) Work Plan be adopted with the noted changes.

CARRIED

Prabh Banga reported that she is working on the GreenPrint Update 2014 and will make it available to Committee members when it has been completed.

E. EARTH MONTH PLANNING

In response to questions by Committee members, 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 indicates that two events in different months are confusing and that having two events in the same month would be preferable.

With the actual Earth Hour event recognized on March 28 and Earth Day recognized on April 22, the Committee agreed that to host two Markham Earth Month events: a kickoff event to be scheduled on March 28 in Cornell and a finale event, on April 25 in Thornhill. Prabh Banga will discuss the Markham Earth Month kickoff event with Councillor Colin Campbell.

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.

Discussion focussed on workshop topics and other activities that could be included, such as:

- Energy topics
- Seed Library
- Presentations by exhibitors
- Downspout Project in Thornhill
- SNAP (Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan) in Bayview Glen
- MEP (Municipal Energy Plan)
- Local Environmental Advisory Committees
- Rock the Bike

Diane Ross and Amol Rao will start planning the workshops and will schedule a meeting of the planning sub-committee. Karl Lyew will email them a list of the participants of the 2014 Earth Day event.

The following items will be confirmed:

- availability of the Thornhill Community Centre on April 25, with April 18 as a backup date - Prabh Banga
- availability of Rock the Bike - Mark Angelini
- availability of student volunteers - Amol Rao
- promotional give away items from Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager Waste & Environmental Management – Deputy Mayor Jack Heath.

The Committee felt it important for vigorous promotion and outreach, including a presence on the Markham events page, to begin in February to ensure a large number of attendees at the Earth Month events. Other advertising options may include the Thornhill Liberal, efforts by the then Thornhill ward councillor, and using a mobile sign.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SYMPOSIUM PLANNING

Karl Lyew reported that he advised the host of the 2014 EAC Symposium that MEAC would like to host the 2015 EAC Symposium. He advised that he had forwarded to Committee members information about the topics presented at the last Provincial EAC Symposium and a "lessons learned" document which can serve as a blueprint for planning. He encouraged Committee members to review the EACs website which provides all the symposium presentation materials.

If MEAC is to host the next Provincial EAC Symposium, sites available include the Markham Civic Centre and the Markham Museum; they are available on the first two Saturdays in May 2015. It was suggested that it would be preferable to leave some time after the April 25th Earth Month event and therefore select May 16. Prabh Banga will confirm availability for this date.

Discussion focussed on possible themes, such as:

- Community Engagement
- How to make EACS stronger - what communities can actually do

Workshop topics might include:

- How MEAC is implementing the themes of its Work Plan
- How to showcase MEAC across the province
- Rouge National Park
- Smart Commute – transportation alternatives

Committee members were asked to review the topics presented at last year's symposium and think of ideas for the 2015 symposium to share at the next meeting, Markham Councillors were asked to provide information about Markham's environmental accomplishments.

6. 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, November 27, 2014** at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.