



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
September 18, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Chuan Li, Chair
Karl Lyew, Vice Chair
Kevin Boon
Jocelyn Cheung
James Lin, Immediate Past Chair
Adam Poon

Staff

Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

Regrets

Mark Angelini
Phil Fung
Marie LeGrow
Phil Ling
Amol Rao
Diane Ross
Carrie Sally
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:10 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 MEETING HELD ON JUNE 19, 2014

Approval of the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on June 19, 2014 was deferred to the next meeting as there was no quorum.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION REPORTS – MARKHAM INITIATIVES

Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator, reported that:

- On September 13, 2014, the City of Markham and the Markham Fair marked the harvest season with the official opening of their joint community garden at the northeast corner of Elgin Mills and McCowan Road. The collaboration between the City and the Fair began earlier this summer with residents and volunteers assisting with planting and maintenance. The joint project currently has ten plots and there is a waiting list for next year.
- The Community Garden on Kirkham Drive in Cornell will officially open on September 27, 2014. The Cornell Community Garden is supported by the City but this is a community garden in the true sense – 25 families share the gardening duties and then share in the harvested produce.
- She will arrange a tour of the community gardens for interested MEAC members.
- The Seed Libraries at Cornell and Milliken Mills Libraries are accepting seed donations. The Seed Library program has become extremely popular and will be expanded to other libraries in the future.
- There will be opportunities for MEAC members to provide advice and assistance with the review of the Community Gardens Guidelines policy and the Municipal Energy Plan.

B. 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

This presentation was deferred to a future meeting.

B. MUNICIPAL ENERGY PLAN (MEP) STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP (SWG)

The City of Markham plans to develop a long term city-wide municipal energy plan (MEP). Stakeholder meetings will be held once every quarter for the next two years until the completion of the MEP. Jocelyn Cheung attended on behalf of MEAC and reported that the recent meeting focused on storm water drainage including water efficiency. PowerStream, Enbridge, and Direct Energy made a presentation on plans to help Markham reduce its energy consumption by 1.8 million kWh over four years.

Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator, 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 will focus on engaging stakeholders in the MEP concept and identifying preliminary opportunities for energy conservation within all sectors across Markham. Ms. Banga advised that, through its participation in the SWG, MEAC is able to provide input as a representative of the public. It could submit a briefing note to the SWG by January 2015; possible themes might be: current energy issues in the home or faced by the community, or energy opportunities, trends or needs. Chair Chuan Li suggested Committee members consider information to be included so the Committee could submit a briefing note to the SWG.

C. 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 Markham initiatives such as the Clear Bag campaign, Deputy Mayor's Walk, and Rouge Days). The initiative, Sustainable Development, will be added to the Outreach section. The Committee will be asked to approve the Work Plan at the next meeting.

D. EARTH DAY PLANNING

Vice Chair Karl Lyew reminded Committee members that the Thornhill Community Centre is available as a venue for MEAC's Earth Day event in April 2015, however a date has not yet been finalized. 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. With the actual Earth Day recognized on April 22, the Committee agreed that events, perhaps one in Thornhill and one in Cornell, could be scheduled on April 11 and 25, with April 18 as a backup date. Prabh Banga will follow up with the Thornhill and Cornell Community Centres to confirm dates. Jocelyn Cheung will follow up with the Thornhill Community Centre for the dimensions of the rooms.

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

- Downspout Project in Thornhill
- SNAP (Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan) in Bayview Glen
- Municipal Energy Plan
- Local Environmental Advisory Committees
- Rock the Bike

Mark Angelini will confirm the availability of Rock the Bike and Amol Rao will confirm the availability of student volunteers. Prabh Banga will confirm the budget available to MEAC for the Earth Month events. 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. The Committee will also request assistance from local ratepayers groups, local ward councillors, and local Environmental Advisory Committees.

E. 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. Possible sites considered included the Markham Civic Centre, Markham Museum and the new Pan Am Centre. Prabh Banga will investigate available dates in 2015.

Karl Lyew reviewed potential costs of the event. Based on the costs incurred by Brampton for the 2014 EAC Symposium, it appears that expenses could be about \$2700, with catering as the highest expense. Sponsorships and registration fees from attendees will reduce overall costs so that MEAC's total expense might be approximately \$1000. The Sustainability Office may also be able to assist with funding.

The theme of the 2014 EAC Symposium was Community Engagement; discussion of possible themes for the 2015 EAC Symposium will be scheduled for the next meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Committee members acknowledged the upcoming wedding in October of Chair Chuan Li and wished her and her fiance much happiness.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Adam Poon
Seconded by Kevin Boon

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:00 PM.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in the Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre.