



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes
May 22, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Members

Chuan Li, Chair
Karl Lyew, Vice Chair
Jocelyn Cheung
Phil Fung
Marie LeGrow
Adam Poon
Amol Rao
Diane Ross
Carrie Sally
Vern Ricksen Tam

Regrets

James Lin, Immediate Past Chair
Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Amanda Napoli
Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator

Council

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Staff

Warren Rupnarian, Accessibility Coordinator
Biju Karumanchery, Senior Development
Manager, Planning and Urban Design
Tom Villella, Senior Project Coordinator,
Zoning and Special Projects
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 as distributed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 17, 2014

It was

Moved by Jocelyn Cheung
Seconded by Rick Tam

THAT the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on April 17, 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

Warren Rupnarian, Accessibility Coordinator, reported that the City of Markham is developing a long term city-wide energy plan, known as the Municipal Energy Plan (MEP) that will improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions throughout the entire city. 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, the GreenPrint for the community target of net zero energy, water, waste and emissions by 2050.

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 focuses 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) will be held on May 27, 2014 and continue once every quarter for the next two years until the completion of the MEP. Warren Rupnarian advised that it would be appreciated if MEAC would provide a representative for the SWG. The following members identified their interest in serving on the SWG: Marie LeGrow, Diane Ross, Jocelyn Cheung, Rick Tam and Adam Poon.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. ROUGE DAYS AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S WALK

Chair Chuan Li reported that Rouge Days will be held from June 5 – 8, 2014. The Deputy Mayor's Annual Walk along Markham's Rouge River Valley is one event of Rouge Days; it is scheduled on June 7 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. The walk will begin near Milne Dam Conservation Area and follow the valley to Toogood Pond.

MEAC will partner 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 reviewed draft material for the scavenger hunt showing two or three grids of pictures of animals and plant life. If people on the walk take pictures of seven of the nine items, then their name would be entered in a draw for a prize.

Karl Lyew reported that Rouge Days has provided two signs for MEAC to use. The Kickoff Event will take place on June 5 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. Phil Fung and Chuan Li indicated that they could be available; Warren Rupnarian will discuss with Prabh Banga about the possibility of partnering with MEAC for the Kickoff Event.

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath left the meeting at 7:40 pm.

B. EARTH HOUR

Chair Chuan Li advised that Councillor Campbell sent his regrets but asked that his sincere gratitude for all MEAC's Earth Hour assistance be shared with the Committee. He is planning another Earth Hour event next year, so he would welcome any comments and suggestions. It was reported that the missing lanterns were found.

C. PARKLAND DEDICATION

Biju Karumanchery, Senior Development Manager, Planning and Urban Design Department, and Tom Villella, Senior Project Coordinator, Zoning and Special Projects, presented information on the background and goals relating to Markham's parkland dedication policy and practices. Sections 42, 51.1 or 53 of the Planning Act effectively establish the legal parameters for Markham to establish parkland dedication policies and procedures. For the past number of decades, the City's interpretation of those regulations has been based on the desire to generate a public parks system that met the needs of its traditional suburban character that relied on car-based access.

While this planning philosophy still exists, it is now being balanced with a more urban approach to planning in areas such as Cornell Centre, Markham Centre, Langstaff Gateway, and in intensification areas identified by the Province, the Region and the City. The goal of the parkland system concept, and parkland dedication approach for Markham is to ensure that the growing and changing population of Markham is well-served by its public parks system, and that the nature of the parkland generated reflects the evolving higher density built form and ethnic diversity. The City must consider its parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu powers, policies and procedures so that its future public parks system provides the right type of space, at the right level of design and in the right location.

A study of the parkland dedication policy and practices began in 2012 and concluded earlier this year. The Final Report made a number of recommendations respecting parkland dedication in Markham including that:

- Markham continue its current practice of parkland dedication assessment based on population, rather than number of dwelling units proposed. This approach is unique in the GTA and is considered to be an equitable way of determining parkland dedication, for both the development industry and Markham.
- Markham continue its current parkland dedication cap for medium and high density development of 1.2 ha/1000 persons. At higher densities, this calculation results in a reduced contribution of approximately 30% below the Planning Act requirement of 1 ha/300 dwelling units. Detached and semi-detached forms of development should be rated at the Planning Act standard of 1 ha/300 units, with a minimum contribution of 5% of the land area.
- Implement a graduated scale of parkland dedication for apartments with a floor space index of 3.0 or greater, within Intensification Areas as identified in the new Draft Official Plan.
- Council may consider reductions or exemptions from parkland dedication for certain types of development including public uses, affordable housing, nursing homes, not-for-profit organization developments, and development within Heritage Conservation Districts.
- A new Parkland Classification, that reflects the current urban/suburban mix of Markham development, be introduced.

At its meeting of February 25, 2014, Council deferred adoption of the proposed parkland dedication bylaw since there may be changes at the Provincial level which may impact on the proposed bylaw.

During discussion with Committee members, it was agreed by the presenters that MEAC will be added as a stakeholder for future consultation on the policy as well as future zoning by-law updates.

D. UNDERGROUND WASTE PRESENTATION

Regional Councillor Joe Li reported that there are two well established underground waste systems: Envac in Sweden and Molok in Finland. He is consulting with Markham's Planning Department regarding possible sites in Markham for the implementation of an underground waste management system.

E. EARTH DAY SURVEY RESULTS AND WRAP UP

Vice Chair Karl Lyew advised that the minutes of the April 17, 2014 MEAC meeting provided a comprehensive review of the Earth Day event. He thanked Regional Councillor Joe Li for arranging sponsorship of the MEAC banner. He agreed that having two groups of booths/tables far apart was not ideal and he is happy to see that another venue is being considered. All Markham Councillors attended the event and it was felt that MEAC should be proud of the efforts that made the Earth Day event a success.

Diane Ross distributed and reviewed the Summary of Earth Day Survey Responses; 70 responses were received. Attendees preferred the animal show, the program booths, and Rock the Bike; activities preferred for next year's event were the animal show, gardening tutorials/giveaways, and exhibits/information booths. Attendees felt that the most important initiatives for Markham were: energy conservation, water conservation and gardens/community gardens. Committee members suggested Permaculture and textile recycling as possible ideas for next year's event. Karl Lyew suggested that a sub-committee be formed very soon to begin the planning for next year's event. Discussion and selection of a sub-committee chair will be agenda items for the June 2014 meeting, Warren Rupnarian advised that Markham is interested in continuing the "Aim to Sustain" Awards but has not yet decided on program details.

Diane Ross reported that the Thornhill Community Centre is available as a venue for MEAC's Earth Day event on April 18, 2015 and the Centre's management is interested in learning more about MEAC's plans for the event. It was suggested that MEAC find out what environmental initiatives Markham is undertaking in Thornhill in 2015 and present information about them at the 2015 Earth Day event.

F. EAC SYMPOSIUM FEEDBACK

Karl Lyew reported that, on Saturday May 3, he and Prabh Banga attended a Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Symposium hosted by the City of Brampton's EAC. The symposium allowed the host municipality and its partners to highlight some of their local environmental accomplishments and to share some of their success stories for engaging and achieving community collaboration on environmental and sustainable development initiatives. Materials from the previous Ontario EAC Symposiums are available from the EAC website. A request has been made for future hosts of this annual event. The cost would be approximately \$2500 but it would provide an excellent opportunity to meet other EAC representatives from across Ontario. This will be discussed further at the June MEAC meeting.

It was

Moved by Carrie Sally

Seconded by Diane Ross

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

CARRIED

G. MEAC ENERGY AWARDS

Committee members discussed the possibility of creating an award for developers/builders who construct green buildings, similar to the award given by the Accessibility Committee for developers who incorporate accessibility features in their projects. Warren Rupnarian will discuss the possibility with Prabh Banga; Adam Poon will provide more information for review and discussion at the June meeting.

H. MEAC WORKPLAN UPDATE

This item was deferred to the June meeting,

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Chair Chuan Li distributed draft MEAC Terms of Reference for review by Committee members in order to facilitate discussion at the June meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Karl Lyew
Seconded by	Carrie Sally

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, June 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ontario Room.