



## MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES January 16, 2014

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### Members

Chuan Li, Chair  
Karl Lyew, Vice Chair  
James Lin, Immediate Past Chair  
Mark Angelini  
Kevin Boon  
Jocelyn Cheung  
Marie LeGrow  
Philip Ling  
Adam Poon  
Amol Rao  
Diane Ross  
Vern Ricksen Tam  
Carrie Sally

##### Regrets

Phil Fung  
Alexander Karlovski  
Amanda Napoli  
Muhammad Rashid  
Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator

##### Council

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath  
Regional Councillor Joe Li

##### Guests

Jacque Copithorn, York Region District School Board  
Kevin McBain, York Region District School Board  
Kent Shadwick, York Catholic District School Board  
Larry Tadman, York Catholic District School Board

##### Staff

Warren Rupnarian, Accessibility Coordinator  
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

#### **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 modified as follows: Item 5 D was revised as “York Region School Boards”; this presentation was moved ahead of item #3 Adoption of the Minutes.

### **3. YORK REGION SCHOOL BOARDS PRESENTATION**

Chair Chuan Li welcomed Jacquie Copithorn and Kevin McBain representing the York Region District School Board, and Kent Shadwick and Larry Tadman representing the York Catholic District School Board.

Larry Tadman reviewed the history of educational environmental activities, including the Zero Waste program and school certification for environmental activities. Kent Shadwick reported that there are many joint programs such as Energy Champions, and energy conservation programs such as energy saver signs and lunchtime energy challenges. Of particular interest, was “Rock the Bike”, a concert powered entirely by students riding bicycles to produce off the grid pedal power. Jacquie Copithorn reviewed the statistics for York Region and Markham schools and advised that there are 42 eco-certified schools in Markham. Resources available to York Region school staff and students included the Ecowatch website, access to energy conservation and management information, a variety of waste management programs, monthly theme posters, guidebooks for Eco schools and environmentally friendly caretaking procedures.

Chair Chuan Li spoke about MEAC’s environmental initiatives including Earth Hour, Earth Day and the Deputy Mayor’s Walk. Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility Coordinator, provided information about Aim to Sustain, an art and writing contest for children and young adults to promote the value of a sustainable Markham. Launched January 10, 2014, the program will during February, with judging of entries in March 2014. Plans are to announce the winners and display the winning entries at the Earth Day event. It was suggested that the Aim to Sustain contest be promoted to Youth Environmental Network of York Region (YENYR).

The Committee was advised that the School Boards are always willing to work with the City of Markham since they share the same goal of trying to educate current and future homeowners about environmental responsibility. It was suggested that MEAC could assist in reaching parents and the community about programs to reduce lunch waste and for safe routes to school. It was agreed that MEAC will keep in touch with the School Boards for collaboration opportunities.

### **4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 21, 2013**

It was

Moved by           James Lin  
Seconded by       Adam Poon

THAT the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on November 21, 2013 be adopted with the following change in italics:

#### **6B. Earth Day Planning**

Chair James Lin reported that he, *Chuan Li*, Carrie Sally and Karl Lyew met with the Markville Mall General Manager.

Carried

## **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **A. INFORMATION REPORTS – MARKHAM INITIATIVES**

Chair Chuan Li reported that MEAC is not able to have a page on the City of Markham website but that there is a MEAC LinkedIn page that the Committee might wish to consider as a site to post Committee information. She will follow up with LinkedIn to determine any restrictions the LinkedIn site might have.

### **B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS**

Chair Chuan Li reviewed the list and provided updates.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. PRESENTATION BY TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

Chair Chuan Li will send a request to Deputy Mayor Jack Heath regarding setting up a field trip with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

### **B. EARTH HOUR**

Carrie Sally reported that she had followed up with Councillor Colin Campbell about planning for this event. She will forward information about "Rock the Bike" to Councillor Campbell for consideration as part of the Earth Hour activities. Councillor Campbell would appreciate six volunteers; the following MEAC members agreed to help: Chuan Li, Karl Lyew, James Lin, Mark Angelini, Kevin Boon, Marie LeGrow, Amol Rao, Vern Rickson Tam, and Carrie Sally.

### **C. EARTH DAY PLANNING**

Vice Chair Karl Lyew led a discussion with Committee members about the choice of venue for the Earth Day Event. Last year's event was held at Markville Mall and MEAC has been able to reserve the Bay Court area at Markville Mall for April 12, 2014. The Bay Court is close to the Food Court and could attract a large crowd; however the area is asymmetrical and divided by the escalator. A major concern is that no exhibitors may use skirted tables and exhibitors' equipment must meet Cadillac Fairview standards. In addition, MEAC would not be allowed to bring animals into the mall or include activities such as face painting. Other venue options could include a Markham community centre such the Cornell Community Centre or Centennial Community Centre, or other retail facilities such as Peachtree Mall or Market Village.

Discussion points presented by Committee members included:

- the objective of the event is to raise awareness of environmental issues and MEAC activities
- to take into account Markham's diverse population, a venue that will appeal to many should be selected
- while Markville Mall has restrictions, the Committee could build on its success from last year
- a site that will attract large numbers should be selected but the Market Village site could attract crowds from areas other than Markham

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew  
Seconded by Vern Ricksen Tam

THAT the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) hold its Earth Day event at Markville Mall.

Defeated

It was

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath  
Seconded by James Lin

THAT the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) hold its Earth Day event at Market Village.

Carried

Chair Chuan Li will contact Market Village to obtain floor plans and confirm availability for MEAC to hold its Earth Day event there. Once availability and a reservation for MEAC have been confirmed, then Markville Mall will be notified and thanked for meeting with MEAC representatives to reserve space at the mall for the Earth Day event.

The Committee discussed the possibility of creating a banner; Regional Councillor Joe Li will seek sponsorship for the cost of creating the banner.

Chair Chuan Li will check with the Sustainability Office for funds to support MEAC's Earth Day event. She will also submit an application to the Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund (MESF); the fund provides financial resources for projects in Markham that promote environmental responsibility and enhance the protection of the Markham's natural resources.

The following organizations participated in the 2013 event: City of Markham Sustainability Office, Waste Management and Waterworks, PowerStream, Enbridge Gas, Rouge Park, Orange Drop, The Permaculture Project GTA, Smart Commute, Ontario Electronic Stewardship, and TRCA. Karl Lyew will contact these organizations to determine whether they would be willing to participate in 2014. Committee members were asked to suggest to Karl Lyew other organizations which might wish to participate. Participating organizations should be confirmed by the end of January.

All members of the Committee volunteered to be part of the Earth Day subcommittee.

**D. ECOMENTORS**

Karl Lyew reported that representatives of Ecomentors will attend the February 2014 meeting. Ecomentors, an organization that provides environmental training to youth so they can then go back to their schools and share their learning, would like to partner with a group like MEAC.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. DEPUTY MAYOR'S ANNUAL WALK**

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that a date will be confirmed soon for the annual walk.

**B. NATIONAL URBAN PARK**

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that the master plan will be confirmed in the near future.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by           Mark Angelini

Seconded by       Karl Lyew

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:25 PM.

Carried

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.