



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES November 21, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Members

James Lin, Chair
Chuan Li, Vice Chair
Mark Angelini
Kevin Boon
Phil Fung
Marie LeGrow
Philip Ling
Karl Lyew
Amanda Napoli
Adam Poon
Muhammad Rashid
Carrie Sally

Regrets

Alexander Karlovski
Christopher Sauer, Immediate Past Chair
Rodney Yee
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Council

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

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 7:09 PM with James Lin presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with these additions:

- Earth Hour delegation by Councillor Colin Campbell
- Status of Committee Members
- Committee Outreach with Schools

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 17, 2013

It was

Moved by Kevin Boon
Seconded by Karl Lyew

THAT the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on October 17, 2013 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. EARTH DAY DELEGATON

Councillor Colin Campbell advised that he would like to partner with MEAC for an Earth Hour initiative with a theme that would encourage Markham residents to conserve energy e.g. “Beyond the Hour”. He presented his idea to attract a large group of 500 or more people to the Cornell Community Centre. He envisioned a lantern walk there at approximately 7:50 pm, a countdown to the start of Earth Hour at 8:30 pm, to be followed by a concert. The Sustainability Office and Markham District Energy could be invited to provide educational materials on energy conservation.

Committee members expressed considerable interest in the initiative and discussion focused on what MEAC could do to support initiatives relating to it.

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Mark Angelini

THAT MEAC partner with Councillor Colin Campbell for this Earth Hour initiative.

Carried

MEAC will contact Councillor Colin Campbell in January 2014 to discuss logistics for the event.

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

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION REPORTS – MARKHAM INITIATIVES

Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator, reported that the pilot projects for community and allotment gardens in Markham - a community garden in Cornell and an allotment garden on Kirkham Drive – were very successful. The Sustainability Office will present a proposal to Markham Council in December to expand the program city-wide and to establish a garden at the Cornell Community Centre. If the proposal is accepted, the Sustainability Office would include an ad in Markham Life to promote the community garden concept; registration will be scheduled for March and it is hoped to launch the opening at the end of March or beginning of April. A public meeting will be held in January 2014 to present and obtain feedback on the design of the garden. The Sustainability Office also hopes to partner with local nurseries in order to provide discounts on tools and other garden supplies to participants.

Prabh Banga also reviewed information about the program, Aim to Sustain, an art and writing contest for children and young adults to promote the value of a sustainable Markham. The program will run from the second week of January to the end of February, with judging of the entries to be conducted by the GreenPrint Steering Committee in March 2014. Current plans are to announce the winners and display the winning entries at the Earth Day event.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair James Lin reviewed the list and provided updates.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair James Lin 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 2014 would then take over the Chair position in January 2015. James Lin reported that one expression of interest in serving as Vice Chair was received from Karl Lyew. Karl told Committee members that he had enjoyed being involved with the Earth Day and Clear Bag initiatives and that he thinks MEAC is a great group to work with.

It was

Moved by Phil Ling
Seconded by Carrie Sally

THAT Karl Lyew be elected as Vice Chair of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) for a one-year term.

Carried

Committee members agreed it would be helpful to create a compilation of short bios with pictures of Committee members. They were asked to submit their information by February 2014.

Prabh Banga will check with the Markham IT department about the feasibility of MEAC having an online presence.

B. EARTH DAY PLANNING

Chair James Lin reported that he, Carrie Sally and Karl Lyew met with the Markville Mall General Manager. MEAC was able to reserve the Bay Court area at the 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. Discussion focused on whether Committee members were comfortable with these parameters, and the possibility of using other possible venues such as Peachtree Mall and the Civic Centre. It was agreed that the Committee would focus on three plans as follows:

- Plan A – Markville Mall; the Sub-Committee will continue to discuss exhibitors' display equipment with Mall management
- Plan B – Markham Civic Centre - Prabh Banga will check on the availability of the Great Hall and staff on April 12' Chuan Li will look into the availability of booking an animal show; Marie LeGrow will look into the availability of the children's entertainer
- Plan C – Peachtree Mall

C. REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Chuan Li and Karl Lyew attended the Regional Environmental Advisory Committee meeting hosted by East Gwillimbury. Chuan reported that other EACs advised that they found it difficult to obtain municipal support. Topics discussed at the meeting included soil contamination, a zoo initiative to use waste to produce energy, water bottle refill machines, and bimonthly environmental talks. The next Regional Environmental Advisory committee meeting will be held in Aurora in spring 2014.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. STATUS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair James Lin reported that Rodney Yee has resigned from the Committee. The terms for Phil Ling, Chris Sauer and Carrie Sally will end in November 2013; it was reported that members interested in serving again on MEAC would certainly be considered.

B. OUTREACH

At the October 2013 meeting, it was observed that many MEAC discussions focus on youth; it was agreed that Committee members would canvas a local school to find out its environmental plans and whether it would consider working with MEAC on its initiatives.

Mark Angelini reported that he had contacted his children's school and learned it has an Ecoclub. School staff put him in touch with Mr. Larry Tadman, Controller of Environmental Services for the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB), and Ms. Jacquie Copithorn, Assistant Manager, Energy and Environmental Services for the York Region District School Board (YRDSB). Both were interested and excited about working with MEAC. They are willing to attend a meeting and make a presentation to the Committee. Mark Angelini will invite them to attend in January or February 2014 to discuss ways they can work with MEAC.

Karl Lyew reported that he had spoken with the coordinator of Ecomentors, an organization that provides environmental training to youth so they can then go back to their schools and share their learning. Ecomentors would like to partner with a group like MEAC. Karl Lyew will invite them to attend in January or February 2014 to discuss ways they can work with MEAC.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Chuan Li
Seconded by	Adam Poon

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:05 PM.

Carried

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.

The Committee will have a Holiday get-together on December 5, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.