



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES September 19, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Members

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

Regrets

Alexander Karlovski
Philip Ling
Christopher Sauer, Immediate Past Chair
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 7:08 PM with James Lin presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with one addition:
- Terms of Office for Committee Members

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2013

It was

Moved by Mark Angelini
Seconded by Amanda Napoli

THAT the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on June 20, 2013 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. INFORMATION REPORTS – MARKHAM INITIATIVES

An update was not available.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chair James Lin reviewed the list.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. LAND|SLIDE: POSSIBLE FUTURES

Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility Coordinator, presented material about Land|Slide: Possible Futures, a public art exhibition taking place at the Markham Museum from September 21 - October 14. The exhibition explores the changing nature of Markham, cities and suburbs around the world, and is centred on the themes of environment, community and sustainability. Land|Slide brings artists, urban planners, ecologists, educators, civic leaders and the general public together in a unique initiative that pays homage to the past and imagines possible futures. MEAC members were welcomed as participants or observers at the workshops or panel discussions taking place on three dates during the exhibition: September 22, September 29 and October 6. Chuan Li advised that she would like to participate in the workshops; Amanda Napoli will verify whether there is availability.

Warren Rupnarain also provided information about another initiative, Aim to Sustain, an art and writing contest for children and young adults to promote the value of a sustainable Markham. He will present additional information to the Committee at the October meeting.

B. MARKHAM'S DOWNSPOUT PROCESS

John Lau, Lijing Xu and Gord Miokovic, Manager Systems Engineering, presented information relating to Markham's Wastewater-based Basement Flooding Risk Reduction program. Household downspouts incorrectly connected to the City sanitary system are sources of flooding risk because sanitary sewers are not designed to convey storm water flows. Such flows pose a high risk of sewer backups, flooding and sanitary system overload and therefore, these incorrect connections are prohibited by Markham Bylaw. Based on the success of a pilot project, Markham has implemented a city-wide Sanitary System Disconnection Program to reduce the risk of wastewater-based basement flooding, protect the sanitary sewer system by reducing extraneous inflows, and to enforce the bylaw. MEAC members will be able to assist with initiatives to convey information about the program to the public, encourage the public to report flooding incidents, and to educate the public about the benefits of disconnecting downspouts from the City sanitary system and using rain barrels instead.

In response to questions, Committee members were advised that Markham is proactive in monitoring discharges such as acids, grease and suspended solids from 110 high risk companies.

Chair James Lin reminded Committee members that this presentation resulted from Mark Angelini's suggestion that the Committee discuss the topic of individuals and companies discharging noxious substances into Markham's sewer systems and creating guidelines or a bylaw to address the issue.

Chair James Lin thanked Warren Rupnarain, and John Lau, Lijing Xu and Gord Miokovic for their presentations to the Committee.

C. 2013/2014 BUSINESS PLAN

Chair James Lin reviewed initiatives the Committee might wish to undertake in the coming year. James Lin advised that he is very conscious of the work associated with Committee projects and the available time of Committee members. It was agreed to focus on the following initiatives:

- Earth Day – this is supported by Mayor Scarpitti and members of Council. Carrie Sally will contact Markville Mall to reserve space at the mall for April 12, April 19, or April 26 (Earth Day is April 22). A sub-committee to coordinate MEAC's Earth Day event will be established at the October meeting.
- Current topics such as Discharge/Waste Water/Stormwater Management, and Community Gardens

D. COMMUNITY GARDEN INITIATIVE

Prabh Banga was introduced as the new Sustainability Coordinator replacing Katie Burns who left the position in June. Prabh Banca reviewed information about the Sustainability Office's efforts to create community and allotment gardens in Markham and its two pilot projects: a community garden in Cornell and an allotment garden on Kirkham Drive. In 2014, the Sustainability Office plans to expand the program with a community garden to be located in Cornell. In addition, the results of the Kirkham Drive garden will be used as a guideline when establishing other gardens. In response to Committee interest, she will investigate the possibility of setting up a tour of a community garden for the Committee.

E. MEETING WITH MAYOR SCARPITTI

Chair James Lin reported that the meeting was productive. The committee was thanked for its involvement with the Clear Bag program. In addition, Karl Lyew's presentation of the results report to Markham Council spoke very well of the Committee. The Committee took the opportunity to remind Mayor Scarpitti of the continued need for Markham staff representation on the Committee.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. TERMS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Markham Clerk's Office has provided a list showing the dates when the terms of Committee members would end; the terms for Phil Ling, Chris Sauer and Carrie Sally will end in November 2013. The Clerk's Office will be asked whether these members may apply again and also the number of available positions on the Committee.

It was

Moved by Mark Angelini
Seconded by Chuan Li

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Markham Council that Carrie Sally be selected to serve another term on the Committee.

Carried

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Karl Lyew
Seconded by Chuan Li

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:10 PM.

Carried

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.