



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES February 21, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Members

James Lin, Chair
Kevin Boon
Marie LeGrow
Karl Lyew
Chuan Li
Philip Ling
Adam Poon
Carrie Sally
Erica Tsang-Tsanaitch
Rodney Yee

Regrets

Christopher Sauer, Immediate Past Chair
Mark Angelini
Phil Fung

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Staff

Katie Burns, Sustainability Office
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:07 PM with James Lin presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

It was suggested that future agendas include information reports on Markham initiatives and Council Matters.

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

It was

Moved by Phil Ling
Seconded by Erica Tsang-Tsanaitch

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

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

- It was reported that the first meeting of the Solar Sub-committee will be arranged soon.
- It was reported that the MEAC accounts for new Committee members will be set up this week.
- It was reported that a waste consultant will be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss ENVAC waste management systems.
- Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that he and Regional Councillor Joe Li had interviewed three well qualified candidates to fill the vacancy on the Committee.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

Chair James Lin advised that Chuan Li was the only Committee member to express an interest in the position of Committee Vice Chair. Chuan told Committee members that she saw this as a wonderful opportunity, as well as a chance to grow and to serve as a conduit for the energies of all Committee members.

It was

Moved by Phil Ling
Seconded by Adam Poon

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

Carried

B. EARTH DAY 2013

Earth Day sub-committee Chair Chuan Li and Carrie Sally reviewed details of the Committee's plans for Earth Day 2013. Karl Lyew has joined the sub-committee.

A meeting was held at Markville Mall with mall staff to resolve a number of issues. The Earth Day event will take place in the center of the mall and the Committee is able to use three mall tables instead of the mall's community booth. In addition, the Committee's partners may set up a booth if they have one. However, the Mall has a number of restrictions i.e. no other tables may be used, no activities involving arts and crafts or animals may take place.

It was reported that the Committee has many excellent partners for this event including Enbridge, Powerstream, YENYR (Youth Environmental Network of York Region), Rouge National Urban Park, City of Markham departments (Sustainability Office, Waste Management, Water Works) Toronto Permaculture Project and Stewardship Ontario, to name a few. Katie Burns will ask the Markham Agricultural Advisory Committee (MAAC) if it would like to take part, perhaps having a farmer representative or presenting the Seeds of Change program. Deputy Mayor Jack Heath will ask Parks Canada staff to participate. It was agreed that \$10 Markville Mall gift cards will be given to the Committee's partners as thanks for their participation.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the promotional poster and accompanying memo that will be distributed to the 146 stores in the mall. The text for both was finalized during the meeting and given to Katie Burns to have reviewed, approved and printed by the Markham Sustainability Office and Corporate Communications.

It was reported that Markville Mall has agreed to promote the event on its website and screen, and will distribute the poster and memo to the stores in the mall. Katie Burns has submitted a request to have the event promoted on Markham's website, and placed on the Markham page of the Markham Economist & Sun for two weeks prior to the event.

Since Markville Mall does not wish surveys to be distributed, Committee members discussed ways to obtain feedback about the event. Kevin Boon has been developing survey questions and suggested limiting the number of questions to five or six. Katie Burns and Graham Seaman will provide a question about Markham's GreenPrint plan. After much discussion, it was agreed to host the survey in Googledocs on MEAC's website. A QR code could be provided to people at the event; smartphones with a QR-code scanner will read and convert the code to a URL directing the smartphone's browser to the website and linking to the survey. If someone completes the survey within ten days and provides their email address on the survey, their name would be placed in a draw to win a \$100 Markville Mall gift card.

Committee members were requested to reserve the date of Saturday April 20 since they will be needed to help at the event on at Markville Mall. Set-up will be from 9-10 AM, the event will run from 10 AM - 3 PM, and clean up will take place from 3 - 4 PM. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the next meeting. Katie Burns will bring t-shirts to the March meeting and name tags on the day of the event. Katie Burns has invited Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Council members. It was arranged that Deputy Mayor Jack Heath will speak to attendees and thank Markville Mall management at approximately 1:00 PM. Chuan Li will ask the Mall team to attend at that time.

C. ROUGE PARK

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that Markham has begun to prepare a detailed response to Parks Canada relating to establishing Rouge Park as the first national urban park. Consideration will be required for a number of issues relating to the Greenbelt, non-contiguous lands, private homes, farmland, the needs of infrastructure and recreation.

D. WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that Markham is ready to launch clear bag use for garbage at the end of April 2013. Markham residents will be provided with a sample clear garbage bag and a coupon to receive a discount on the purchase of other clear garbage bags. It is hoped that Committee members will be available to serve as ambassadors to promote this initiative at 15 - 20 locations around Markham. Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager Waste Management & Environment, will make a presentation on this matter to the committee at the March meeting.

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that Mylene Batista Bezerra has accepted a short-term assignment with the City of Markham, so he will send information about the Waste Diversion sub-committee to MEAC members in case anyone is interested in serving on the Waste Diversion sub-committee.

E. SOLAR SUB-COMMITTEE

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Karl Lyew
Seconded by	Erica Tsang-Tsanaitch

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:15 PM.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.