



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES October 18, 2012

ATTENDANCE

Members

Christopher Sauer, Chair
Mylene Batista Bezerra
Kevin Boon
Marie LeGrow
Chuan Li
James Lin
Philip Ling
Carrie Sally
Rodney Yee
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Regrets

Phil Fung
Salim Manji
Adam Poon
Erica Tsang
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Guest

Regional Councillor Jim Jones

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 7:05 PM with Christopher Sauer presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with one addition - Markham Official Plan.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

It was

Moved by Chuan Li
Seconded by Kevin Boon

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on September 20, 2012 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

- Chris Sauer has uploaded the Earth Day 2012 survey results to the MEAC website for Committee members; they are also appended to these minutes.
- Bev Shugg Barbeito reported that Laura Gold, Clerk's Office, confirmed that the Committee needs two additional members and that she has begun the recruitment process for the new members.
- Chris Sauer will reach out to Salim Manji to determine his interest and availability in attending future Committee meetings.
- Committee members have been invited to attend the Environmental Advisory Symposium, being hosted in Leamington Ontario by the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee on Saturday, November 17th. Chris Sauer will verify whether the agenda has been confirmed and whether there is a budget to support travel to the conference. Chuan Li may be interested in attending.
- Chris Sauer reported that he has contacted the Mayor's Office to arrange a meeting between the Mayor and MEAC members; he is waiting to have a meeting date confirmed by the Mayor's staff.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. SWEDEN SMART CITIES TOUR

Regional Councillor Joe Li presented information about Envac systems that he visited during his recent tour of some of Sweden's sustainable urban districts, such as Hammarby Sjostad. The Envac system can be adapted to suit each urban development depending on its design and requirements, and additional pipes can be added on to an existing underground infrastructure as an urban development expands.

The presentation showed how the Envac system works. Residents throw waste into readily accessible chutes, which can either be indoors or outdoors. The waste is temporarily stored above a closed storage valve until the chute is full. Automatic emptying is controlled by a system in the waste collection station located on the outskirts of the development it serves; it is linked to the chutes via a network of underground pipes. When the control system senses that it is time to empty the chutes, a vacuum is created in the pipe network and waste from the chutes is sucked to the waste collection station at speeds up to 70 kph and over distances as great as 10 km. Waste at the collection station is sucked through a cyclone, where it is separated from the transport air. The waste then falls into a compressor where it is compressed and fed into a sealed container.

The Envac system is ideal for recycling. The waste chutes can be located close to residents, which makes sorting waste at source easier and increases recycling rates. It is easy to add a chute, a storage valve and a container for every type of waste. Diverting valves ensure that each waste stream remains separated. Finally, the system is hermetically sealed, so it will not attract pests or insects, or give off unpleasant odours.

The Envac system offers both financial and environmental advantages. The compressed waste is taken to a large incinerator where the waste is converted to energy – enough energy to keep roads free of ice and snow without the use of polluting salts. The Envac system reduces carbon emissions and increases the sustainability of the environments in which it operates. Since there is no need for waste management workers to manually empty garbage bins, there is no need for garbage trucks to make regular pickups. This reduces the amount of polluting waste collection vehicles on the roads and the staff can be reassigned to other duties. Finally, waste collection cycles can be scheduled more frequently for less cost.

It was

Moved by Phil Ling
Seconded by James Lin

That, regarding Regional Councillor Joe Li's tour of sustainable urban districts in Sweden, the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) feels in principle that the Envac technology is strongly aligned with GreenPrint recommendations #103 and #107. MEAC also feels the Envac technology is also well suited to the high density developments under consideration in Markham such as Markham Centre, the GTA Centre, Buttonville and Langstaff. MEAC encourages Markham Council and developers working in Markham to work together to review the viability of this process for application with developments in Markham.

Carried

It was

Moved by Phil Ling
Seconded by James Lin

That MEAC encourages Regional Councillor Joe Li to make the same presentation to the Markham Waste Management Committee and the Markham Centre Advisory Committee.

Carried

B. ROUGE PARK

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

C. EARTH DAY 2013

Chris Sauer reported that he has contacted Markville Mall to confirm the date of April 20, 2013 to hold an Earth Day event. Markville Mall staff have sent a picture of the space available, and an application to be completed. Earth Day sub-committee Chair Chuan Li will complete the application form and send it to Markville Mall. She also plans to call a meeting of the sub-committee to view the space at Markville Mall and ask staff about rules and restrictions, including rules about animals. Rodney Yee agreed to join the sub-committee.

Committee members brainstormed ideas for the Earth Day event, including:

- Handing out compostable plates to food court franchises
- Liaising with Markham Waste Management, possibly borrowing its Kids Corner recycling game
- Displaying “user friendly” GreenPrint signs
- Offer blue and green bins for sale, or have a raffle for some bins
- Offer free tree seedlings
- Partner with Best Buy for the collection of old batteries

Earth Day sub-committee Chair Chuan Li asked members to email Earth Day program ideas to her.

The sub-committee believes that expenses could reach \$2200; it was reported that the Committee currently has a balance of \$1300. Earth Day sub-committee Chair Chuan Li will send an email to MEAC Chair Chris Sauer to request an additional \$900.

The sub-committee will coordinate with the Mayor’s Office so his schedule might include MEAC’s event, and other Markham Earth Day events.

D. SOLAR SUB-COMMITTEE

Chris Sauer reported that he will arrange the first meeting soon.

E. WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE

Mylene Batista Bezerra reported that the next meeting of the Waste Diversion Sub-committee is scheduled for November 14, 2012.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. MARKHAM OFFICIAL PLAN

Committee members were asked to review the Markham Official Plan online at the Markham website so that it can be discussed at the November meeting.

B. CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee will discuss appointing a representative to this committee.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Chuan Li
Seconded by	Carrie Sally

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

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday November 15, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.