



## MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES November 15, 2012

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### Members

Christopher Sauer, Chair  
Mylene Batista Bezerra  
Kevin Boon  
Phil Fung  
Chuan Li  
Carrie Sally  
Erica Tsang  
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath  
Regional Councillor Joe Li

##### Regrets

Marie LeGrow  
James Lin  
Philip Ling  
Adam Poon  
Rodney Yee  
  
Katie Burns, Sustainability Office

##### Guests

Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator, Environmental Planning & Rouge Park  
Kim Weber

##### Staff

Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:13 PM with Christopher Sauer presiding as Chair.

#### **2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

The agenda was accepted with one addition – Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

#### **3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2012**

It was

Moved by           Chuan Li  
Seconded by       Chris Sauer

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on October 18, 2012 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

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

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

- Chair Chris Sauer, Rodney Yee and Mylene Batista Bezerra will research waste management and recycling systems similar to those outlined in Regional Councillor Joe Li's recent presentation. Chair Chris Sauer will forward the results to all Committee members. Discussion of similar systems will be scheduled as an agenda item for the January 2013 meeting.
- The Committee discussed appointing a representative to the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

It was

Moved by            Deputy Mayor Jack Heath  
Seconded by        Erica Tsang

That MEAC recommend to Markham Council that Chuan Li be appointed as MEAC's representative on the Markham Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Carried

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. MARKHAM OFFICIAL PLAN**

Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator, Environmental Planning & Rouge Park, presented information about the new draft Official Plan, Markham's vision for sustainable growth up to 2031. Ms. Duoba advised that the Planning Act requires an Official Plan be reviewed at least every 5 years and that Markham needs a new Official Plan to guide its policies for land use planning, growth management and development approval. A new Official Plan will also provide an opportunity to address how changes in the physical planning may be integrated with other Markham initiatives for economic, environmental and social change.

The preparation of the new Official Plan will also conform to Provincial legislation and Plans (e.g. Greenbelt/Oak Ridges, Moraine Plan, Growth Plan, and Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan), and to Region of York Official Plan (2010). The York Region Official Plan implements the policies of the Provincial Growth Plan, assigns Growth Plan population and employment forecasts to local municipalities in York Region, and identifies Regional requirements for managing growth.

In May 2010, Markham Council endorsed a growth alternative to guide future residential and employment growth in response to these requirements, and to develop a Made in Markham' plan. The endorsed Markham Growth Alternative to 2031 is the foundation of the new draft Official Plan. It calls for continuing environmental protection, limited urban expansion, and intensification strategy – centres and corridors served by transit e.g. Markham Centre, the Langstaff Gateway, and Cornell Centre.

There are three parts to the City of Markham Draft Official Plan:

- Part I: City-wide goals, objectives, policies and maps
- Part II: Secondary Plans (area-specific policies) to be developed by 2014-15
- Part III: Site-Specific Policies to be developed in 2013

The City of Markham Draft Official Plan Part I has four themes:

- protecting the natural environment (watercourses, valley lands, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat, agricultural lands in the Greenbelt et al)
- building complete communities and providing for the day-to-day needs of residents
- increasing mobility/travel options and changing from automobile dependency to alternative means of travel
- maintaining a vibrant and competitive economy and building on Markham's success as a major employment centre in the GTA,

Key changes introduced by the City of Markham Draft Official Plan Part I include:

- identification of Markham structure
- identification of intensification areas (centres and corridors)
- updated land use designations and identification of 'Future Urban Area' lands
- greater emphasis on defining development by height, massing and building types rather than by density and by sustainable development principles;
- consideration of community infrastructure in planning
- protection of employment lands
- more robust cultural heritage and archaeological policies
- reduction in number of secondary plans

Public consultation is key in the development and approval of the Official Plan. Four Community Open Houses - Thornhill, Unionville, Markham and Milliken - were scheduled in October and November 2012. Meetings have also been held with individual stakeholder groups such as First Nations and Metis, ratepayer groups, and advisory groups such as MEAC. A statutory public meeting will be scheduled in late 2012 or early 2013. Following these public consultations, staff will prepare and submit a report outlining comments received and recommending revisions as appropriate to the draft Official Plan. The final draft Official Plan will be submitted to Council for adoption, and then forwarded to York Region for approval.

## **B. MARKHAM OFFICIAL PLAN DISCUSSION**

There was considerable interest and discussion of the environmental aspects of the draft Official Plan including linkages to the GreenPrint plan, Greenway and land use policies. Lilli Duoba advised that Committee members were welcome to send questions and comments about the draft Official Plan up to December 15, 2012. It was agreed that Committee members would send comments to Chair Chris Sauer by the end of November and that he would forward all comments to Lilli Duoba.

## **C. ROUGE PARK**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**D. EARTH DAY 2013**

Earth Day sub-committee Chair Chuan Li has completed and returned the application form to Markville Mall. There are a number of questions that the sub-committee will need to clarify with Markville Mall management. The sub-committee will meet at the mall on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm to view the space and ask staff about rules and restrictions. The Sustainability Office will contribute to the cost of the Earth Day event and assist in obtaining the required insurance coverage for the event.

**E. SOLAR SUB-COMMITTEE**

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

**F. WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE**

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that new developments might be ready to report soon. It is anticipated that implementation of the new initiatives will be scheduled for April 30, 2013, which will tie in nicely with MEAC's Earth Day plans.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that two applicants have been interviewed for vacancies on the Committee.

Chris Sauer advised that Salim Manji had resigned. Bev Shugg Barbeito will follow up with Laura Gold about the vacancy resulting from this resignation.

**B. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Chair Chris Sauer advised that it was time to elect a Vice Chair of the committee for the 2013 year, as current Vice Chair James Lin would be moving into the Chair position in January 2013. The successful Vice Chair would then take over the Chair position in the following year. Interested Committee members will be asked to put their name forward along with a one paragraph description of why they would make a good Vice Chair. The expressions of interest will then be circulated to the members of the committee in advance of the January 17 meeting when the election of the Vice Chair will take place.

**C. DECEMBER GET-TOGETHER**

The Committee will have an informal dinner meeting on Thursday December 6, 2012.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by           Kevin Boon  
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, January 17, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.