



MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
December 4, 2012
1:00 p.m.
Canada Room

Members of Committee

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Councillor Valerie Burke
Mylene Bezerra, MEAC Representative

Regrets

Regional Councillor Joe Li

Staff

Karen Boniface, Technical Coordinator
Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Environmental Policy and
Program Development
Nory Takata, Parks Planner
Alex Moore, Senior Manager, Purchasing and
Accounts Payable
Peter Loukes, Director Environmental Services
Katie Burns, Sustainability Coordinator
Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager of Waste &
Environmental Management
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Environmental Issues Committee convened at 1:13 p.m. with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath as Chair. Councillor Logan Kanapathi assumed the Chair at 2:16 p.m. and Deputy Mayor reassumed the Chair at 2:23 p.m.

**1. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
COMMITTEE - WASTE DIVERSION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the September 4, 2012 Environmental Issues Committee - Waste Diversion Subcommittee minutes be adopted.

CARRIED

2. MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FUND (MESF)

Green Purchasing Guidelines MESF

Alex Moore, Senior Manager, Purchasing and Accounts Payable delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Sustainable Purchasing Practices."

The Committee suggested that staff report back to the Environmental Issues Committee with a copy of the draft guide and a plan outlining how the \$17,000 will be used for training. The Committee suggested that staff include poisonous rodent traps in this draft policy.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the Environmental Issues Committee approve the Sustainable Purchasing Practices; and,

That staff proceed with a roll out communication plan; and,

That staff proceed with a roll out of the guide through the intranet; and,

That staff proceed with developing and implementing a training program; and further,

That staff report back to the Environmental Issues Committee with a plan for \$17,000 for training.

CARRIED

Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund (MESF) Budget

Staff summarized the details outlined in the report regarding the Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund (MESF) Budget.

It was noted that if any adjustments need to be made in the future to the MESF Budget there can be a report to Council.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the staff report "Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund (MESF) - Fall 2012 Funding," be received; and,

That available funding from the MESF be reduced and capped at \$150, 000 annually, which is reflective of recent annual expenditures, yet still ensures adequate financial support is available for a variety of environmental community and staff projects.

CARRIED

MESF Funding Zero Waste for Schools Program

Staff briefly summarized the details outlined in the report relative to Zero Waste for School Programs.

There was discussion about whether elementary schools should be a priority for this program and whether all schools, not just schools that are part of the Ontario school boards, should be funded.

Staff provided a summary of the number of private, public and separate elementary schools and separate and public high schools.

There was considerable discussion regarding whether private schools should be permitted to apply for this proposed funding. The Committee suggested that staff report back on expanding the list of eligible schools based upon the definition of school .

It was determined that emphasis should be put first on rollout of these programs in the elementary schools.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Mylene Bezerra

That the MESF program requirements for funding schools be amended to support the *Diversion Subcommittee Strategy - Markham's Roadmap to 80% Diversion*, starting in 2013, as follows:

1. A maximum of 10 schools be approved by Markham's Waste and Environmental Department for Zero Waste Programs per year, to a maximum funding limit of \$2,500 per **separate and public school with an emphasis on elementary schools**. This Program and its funding would be administered by the Waste and Environmental Management Department; and,
2. A maximum of three (3) schools continue to be approved **to a maximum of \$5,000** per funding cycle (Spring and Fall) for all other qualifying environmental projects, *provided* the school has already adopted the Zero Waste practices to the satisfaction of Markham's Waste and Environmental Management Department; and further
3. **That staff report back on the definition of schools.**

3. COMMUNITY APPLICATIONS

Demonstration Rain Garden Tour at Markham Museum by Healthy Yards Program Coordinator, TRCA

Staff summarized the application for a Demonstration Rain Garden Tour and workshops at the Markham Museum by Healthy Yard Program Coordinator, Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Mylene Bezerra

That the application by the Healthy Yards Program Coordinator - Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) for \$2,700 for a Demonstration Rain Garden Tour at Markham Museum, be approved, allowing for a minor exception. That exception would permit this application to be considered prior to TRCA reporting on their original project to install the garden, which is now in place but awaiting completion of signage and the opening ceremony. Also, that TRCA work with Environmental Services, Communication and Community Outreach staff and the Markham Museum staff to promote the tours to the public.

CARRIED

Ecological Action Conference by Youth Environmental Network of York Region

Staff advised that the application by Youth Environmental Network of York Region for \$9,970, for an Ecological Action Conference has been deferred as per request of the applicant and asked if they any feedback to share on the conferences held in the past.

The Committee advised that Members of Council have not been receiving invitations to the conference and suggested that staff speak to the representatives.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Mylene Bezerra

That the application by Youth Environmental Network of York Region for \$9,970, for an Ecological Action Conference, be deferred, pending review and discussion with Environmental Services, Communications and Community Outreach and Operations staff.

CARRIED

Lincoln Park Public School

Staff summarized the application from Lincoln Park Public School for \$1,627, for a zero waste program.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Mylene Bezerra

That the application from Lincoln Park Public School for \$1,627, for a zero waste program, be approved, provided they work with Waste and Environmental Management Department staff and ensure the MESF is recognized in any promotional materials.

CARRIED

James Robinson Public School

Staff summarized the application from James Robinson Public School for \$5,000, for an outdoor garden as part of a wheelchair accessible schoolyard.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the application by James Robinson Public School for \$5,000, for an outdoor garden as part of a wheelchair accessible schoolyard, be approved, subject to review of the plant species by Parks staff.

CARRIED

4. STAFF APPLICATION

Staff summarized the proposed multi-residential battery recycling program.

It was suggested that Members of Council include this information in their newsletters.

The Committee suggested that staff report back on how to deal with batteries in all City facilities and other places.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the application by Claudia Marsales, Waste and Environmental Department, for \$5,000, for multi-residential battery recycling program, be approved.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That staff report back on how to deal with batteries at all City facilities and other locations.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Issues Committee adjourned at 2:40 p.m.