



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES June 21, 2012

ATTENDANCE

Members

Christopher Sauer, Chair
Mylene Batista Bezerra
Kevin Boon
Marie LeGrow
Chuan Li
James Lin
Adam Poon
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Regrets

Phil Fung
Philip Ling
Salim Manji
Tom Rado
Carrie Sally
Erica Tsang
Rodney Yee

Staff

Shirley Marsh, Sustainability Office
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:20 PM with Christopher Sauer presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 17, 2012

It was

Moved by James Lin
Seconded by Marie LeGrow

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on May 17, 2012 be adopted with the following change *in italics*:

5D. UPCOMING MEETING AGENDAS

The committee is interested in having Graham attend this meeting to further discuss solar panels on *Markham Theatre*. Also, there will be a meeting with the Mayor in the future to further discuss and ask for feedback in regards to MEAC.

It was also noted that Marie LeGrow was in attendance at the meeting held on May 17, 2012.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that this Committee may try to have its initiatives dovetail with those of York Region. The Waste Diversion Committee is preparing a report and there may be an opportunity for MEAC to review and provide input on it.

B. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

On behalf of Katie Burns and the Sustainability Office, Shirley Marsh spoke about events the Sustainability Office is planning. It will promote the activities and MEAC initiatives, and would appreciate volunteers to assist in delivering the events.

Earth Day 2013 - The Unionville Band Shell was a good location for MEAC's 2012 Earth Day event because passersby could easily drop in to see it; however, an indoor venue would be more appropriate for the month of April. It was reported that it does not seem promising that MEAC will be able to use Markville Mall as a venue for an Earth Day event in 2013. Chris Sauer suggested that MEAC consider other options.

Other - Chris Sauer reported that he has followed up with Graham Seaman about solar panels; Graham will be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss this initiative with MEAC.

Chris Sauer also reported that he has spoken with Nory Takata, Parks Planner about the tree inventory Markham has undertaken in conjunction with Vaughan and York Region. MEAC will be asked for input when the report is complete.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. EARTH DAY SURVEY RESULTS

Mylene Batista Bezerra reviewed the results:

- there were 48 responses or approximately 10% of all attendees
- most responses were from people in the 21-40 age bracket, with University education
- most were Markham residents although 40% were not
- most learned of the MEAC Earth Day event from the Markham website or by word of mouth from friends
- the aspects of the event that were liked most were: the children's activity, the information booth, the band and the animal show

- suggestions for next year were to increase the amount of publicity, the number of children's activities and amount of information available at the info booth
- most said they would either attend or would likely attend a similar event next year
- the most important environmental issues were seen as urban development, energy issues, and recycling issues
- most felt it was very important for Markham's new buildings to be designed to conserve water and energy and, for Markham to consider renewable energy for its energy needs
- Increasing renewable energy resources and public transit were seen as two actions Markham should take to improve the environment
- Respondents have been involved in other environmental events and children's activities within the last year
- Respondents are satisfied with the state of the local environment
- 75% of respondents were not aware of the Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund, the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee, or Markham's GreenPrint plan

Committee discussion brought forth the following suggestions:

- the committee should start planning now for the 2013 Earth Day event
- cross promotion with other events taking place on Earth Day would be helpful
- planning should focus on families and their perspective, to include activities that would be important to them
- one activity suggested was weaving plastic milk bags into mats to be sent to Haiti and Africa;

The survey results will be shared with the Sustainability Office as they may be helpful in focussing efforts to address issues raised by the responses.

The survey results will be appended to these minutes.

B. MEAC PERSONALITY

Committee discussion brought forth the following suggestions:

- community outreach e.g. education, engage the community and bring their thoughts to Markham
- projects such as SolarShare, a strong supporter of community power
- policy input such as GreenPrint, Pesticide bylaws
- staff relationship - MEAC is a good resource for staff, can provide objective perspective and help provide outreach on behalf of Markham; MEAC could provide advice either when Markham approaches MEAC or MEAC could take the initiative to research a subject and provide information to Markham

Discussion about this will be continued at the next meeting.

C. COMMUNITY SOLAR SUB COMMITTEE

This sub-committee will research and investigate opportunities for community based solar projects, such as the rooftop solar panel project on Markham Theatre.

The following members have agreed to serve on this sub-committee:

Chris Sauer

James Lin

Adam Poon

Salim Manji

Philip Ling (Advisor to sub-committee)

6. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Kevin Boon

Seconded by James Lin

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 July 19, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.

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