



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES July 19, 2012

ATTENDANCE

Members

Christopher Sauer, Chair
Kevin Boon
Phil Fung
James Lin
Philip Ling
Adam Poon
Carrie Sally
Rodney Yee
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Regrets

Mylene Batista Bezerra
Marie LeGrow
Chuan Li
Salim Manji
Tom Rado
Erica Tsang

Staff

Katie Burns, Sustainability Office
Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager Waste Management & Environment
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:09 PM with Christopher Sauer presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted but it was agreed that the agenda item relating to Waste Management be presented before other agenda items.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 21, 2012

It was

Moved by James Lin
Seconded by Kevin Boon

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on June 21, 2012 be adopted with the following changes *in italics*:

5A. EARTH DAY SURVEY RESULTS

Mylene Batista Bezerra reviewed the results:

- 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

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) - Chris Sauer reported that he has followed up with the TRCA and they are agreeable to attend a future meeting. Chris Sauer will invite them.

Earth Day 2013 - Chris Sauer reported that he has followed up with Markville Mall and MEAC has been given permission to use the mall as a venue for an Earth Day event in 2013. The Committee agreed this was an ideal option. Chris Sauer will contact Markville Mall to confirm the reservation.

Solar Sub-committee - Chris Sauer reported that Phil Fung will join the sub-committee. Chris Sauer advised that he wants the committee to get started quickly. He will collect some information and arrange the first meeting of the sub-committee..

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE

Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager Waste Management & Environment, advised that, for many years, Markham has been at the forefront of waste diversion efforts. Recently those efforts have stalled at 70-72% waste diversion. Markham would like to increase that rate to 80%. As a result, the Waste Diversion Sub-committee was formed to research and develop proposals appropriate for implementation in Markham.

The Waste Diversion Sub-committee has prepared a report and will present it to Markham Council for approval in September. The report proposes the implementation during 2013 and 2014 of ten initiatives, including:

- Mandatory material separation
- Unlimited clear bag use for garbage
- Increased diversion of textiles
- Zero waste projects for schools
- Retail Bag Ban Policy

- Increased Promotion and Education
- Establishment of a Reuse Depot for renovation materials
- Curbside Electronics and Battery Collection Ban Policy
- Amnesty Days and Move Out Permit Fee
- Extension of Fall Leaf and Yard Waste Pickup to December 15

The proposals were supported by MEAC; however, Ms. Marsales acknowledged that some of the proposals will be controversial and be met with resistance in the community.

B. ROUGE PARK

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that Markham has begun to prepare a detailed response to the Parks Canada relating to establishing Rouge Park as the first national urban park. Markham hopes to add to the area of the proposed national park land that it currently owns and additional acreage it might be able to purchase. Markham would also like to have Milne Park and associated lands considered part of the national park. Markham would request that farmers living on farmland within the park area be given 99-year leases so they would feel confident in developing their farms. When establishing the national park, a number of issues relating to the Greenbelt, non-contiguous lands, private homes and golf courses, will need to be resolved. Consideration will also need to be given to the needs of infrastructure and recreation.

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath will present further information about the Rouge Park national urban park project at MEAC's September meeting.

C. AUGUST MEETING

Phil Fung will contact the principals of the first net zero office building in Canada to arrange a tour of the building for MEAC members. The four storey office building with zero carbon footprint, powered exclusively by renewable energy resources - wind, sun, and geothermal energy, is located at Kennedy Road and 14th Avenue.

6. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Carrie Sally
Seconded by	James Lin

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:30 PM.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday September 20, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.

A meeting to tour the net zero office building may be arranged in August.