



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES September 20, 2012

ATTENDANCE

Members

Christopher Sauer, Chair
Mylene Batista Bezerra
Kevin Boon
Marie LeGrow
Chuan Li
Carrie Sally
Erica Tsang
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Regrets

Phil Fung
James Lin
Philip Ling
Salim Manji
Adam Poon
Rodney Yee
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

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 7:18 PM with Christopher Sauer presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with the following additions:

- New members
- Provincial Symposium
- Tour of Net Zero Office Building

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JULY 19, 2012

It was

Moved by Chuan Li
Seconded by Erica Tsang

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting held on July 19, 2012 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Chris Sauer will upload the Earth Day 2012 survey results for Committee members and provide them for inclusion in the minutes.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. ROUGE PARK

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

B. TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (TRCA)

Chris Sauer reported that representatives from Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) may attend a future meeting.

C. EARTH DAY 2013

Chris Sauer reported that he has contacted Markville Mall to confirm MEAC's wish to reserve space for April 2013. Earth Day is Monday April 22, 2013 so Committee members discussed when would be the best time to hold an Earth Day event. It was agreed to hold an event on Saturday April 20; Chris Sauer will email Markville Mall to confirm this date.

An Earth Day sub-committee was established with the following members:

Chuan Li (Chair)

Kevin Boon

Carrie Sally

Chris Sauer

Erica Tsang

Katie Burns

The sub-committee will coordinate with the Mayor's Office so he might attend MEAC's event, and other Markham Earth Day events. The sub-committee will also meet with Markville Mall staff to check out space available in the mall, ask about rules for booths, posters, tents and animals. It is possible that the available space may be small so there will be a need to focus on high value activities. If the space at Markville Mall is not appropriate for the committee's needs, other venues, such as Whole Foods, will be considered.

It was suggested that MEAC send letters to Markham schools to encourage them to get involved for Earth Day and to be a Zero Waste school. The sub-committee will compile a list of Markham schools and their contact information.

Chris Sauer will investigate the Committee's budget for the Earth Day event.

D. SOLAR SUB-COMMITTEE

Chris Sauer reported that he will arrange the first meeting soon and may ask another committee member to chair the sub-committee meetings.

E. WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE

Mylene Batista Bezerra reported that Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager Waste Management & Environment, had met with the Waste Diversion Sub-committee. She advised that Markham would like to increase its waste diversion rate from 72% to 80%. A report, to be presented to Markham Council in December, proposes the implementation 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
- Curb side Electronics and Battery Collection Ban Policy
- Amnesty Days and Move Out Permit Fee
- Extension of Fall Leaf and Yard Waste Pickup to December 15

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. NEW MEMBERS

Bev Shugg Barbeito will confirm the process to recruit new members with Laura Gold, Clerk's Office.

B. PROVINCIAL SYMPOSIUM NOVEMBER 17

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. The symposium will allow for networking and idea sharing among committees as well as presentations and poster sessions.

Chuan Li indicated that she would be interested in attending; Chris Sauer will confirm if there is a budget to support travel to the symposium.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP FORUM SEPTEMBER 29

Mylene Batista Bezerra encouraged committee members to attend the excellent seminars included in this event being held at the Pickering Civic Complex.

Mylene Batista Bezerra also recommended that committee members review two articles about Shoreline Clean-up and Shopping Bags in the Markham Economist & Sun.

D. TOUR OF THE NET ZERO OFFICE BUILDING

Phil Fung arranged a tour for Committee members of the Net Zero office building located at Kennedy Road and 14th Avenue. Committee members agreed the tour was a fantastic opportunity to tour the zero carbon footprint building, powered exclusively by renewable energy resources - wind, sun, and geothermal energy. Del Ridge Homes, the builder and owner, is very passionate about protecting the environment, and constantly striving to make building designs more environmentally friendly. MEAC recommends that members of Markham Council also tour this building, if they have not already done so. The Committee will send a card to thank Del Ridge Homes for the tour.

E. MEETING WITH THE MAYOR

Chris Sauer will contact the Mayor's Office to arrange a meeting between the Mayor and MEAC members.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Chuan Li
Seconded by Erica Tsang

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:10 PM.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday October 18, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.