



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES January 19, 2012

ATTENDANCE

Members

Christopher Sauer, Chair
Kevin Boon
Phil Fung
Chuan Li
James Lin
Philip Ling
Salim Manji
Carrie Sally
Erica Tsang
Rodney Yee
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li

Regrets

Mylene Batista Bezerra
Marie Legrow
Erika Lontoc
Elvis Nurse
Adam Poon
Tom Rado

Staff

Katie Burns, Sustainability Coordinator
Graham Seaman, Manager Climate Change and Energy
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:00 PM with Christopher Sauer presiding as Chair via teleconference.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with one addition:

- Update from the Markham Energy Conservation Office (MECO)

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2011

It was

Moved by Carrie Sally
Seconded by Phil Ling

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) held on November 17, 2011 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. UPDATE OF THE MARKHAM ENERGY CONSERVATION OFFICE (MECO)

Graham Seaman, Manager Climate Change and Energy, reported that MECO has developed an action plan for 2012 with the following objectives:

- Governance Process integration
- Priority setting as a result of a more robust budget, e.g. reducing carbon emissions
- Support from MEAC for MECO initiatives to increase community involvement
- Promote and track Governance Process initiatives, e.g. complete a gap analysis by year end

Staff of the Energy Conservation Office recognize that the GreenPrint is not well understood by the community, so they will develop a communications plan and carry out pilot projects relating to some of the GreenPrint priorities. MECO is also developing communication materials, to assist internal staff and Town of Markham Council.

The assistance of MEAC will be most helpful in gathering information, hosting community activities on behalf of MECO and providing feedback. Specifically, MECO would appreciate MEAC's assistance with Earth Hour plans. MECO has received a \$2500 grant from Powerstream for Earth Hour events such as "Learn to Conserve" sessions, "Before Electricity" at the Markham Museum, and community campaigns to provide information on how to tap into solar energy.

Earth Hour will take place on March 31, 2012 from 8:30 - 9:30 pm. It was suggested that MECO might want to take advantage of social media to promote its activities, and perhaps have members of the community pledge their support for Earth Hour. A sub-committee was formed to liaise with MECO to plan Earth Hour initiatives. Graham Seaman will coordinate meetings of the subcommittee. Members include:

- James Lin
- Salim Manji
- Rodney Yee
- Graham Seaman

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that this Committee is close to finalizing a new concept towards realizing Markham's goal of "0 waste". The Waste Diversion Sub-committee will want to present this initiative to MEAC for comments prior to presenting it to Town of Markham Council. It is hoped that the new initiatives will be supported by MEAC.

Regional Councillor Joe Li reported that he will lead a team of home construction professionals to Sweden in summer 2012. The purpose of the visit is to observe first-hand some state-of-the-art residential waste diversion initiatives.

B. COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE UPDATE

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that a presentation of the proposed pathway route will be made next week to Town of Markham Council. A public meeting will likely be scheduled for early in February to present and discuss the pathway route options.

C. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Letter from Joan Jenkyn re: East Don River

Chris Sauer reported that he will follow up with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to invite representatives to a future MEAC meeting to discuss the report card.

Regional EAC Forum

Chris Sauer advised he will follow up with Aurora representatives regarding their mapping capabilities with respect to wildlife, watersheds etc.

Discharging water from swimming pools into sewers

Kevin Boon has uploaded to the MEAC website an article on this issue.

Outreach

No report was available.

D. EARTH DAY/HOUR/WEEK

On behalf of the sub-committee, Chuan Li and Carrie Sally presented ideas for Earth Day events. The sub-committee is proposing that MEAC align activities and materials with MECO priorities as set out in the GreenPrint plan as an overall theme for the Earth Day celebration. For example:

Materials Management

- recycle, organics or garbage game
- collect small e-waste, e.g. cell phones, batteries

Water Efficiency

- information on rain barrel program
- give away rain gauges?

Ecosystem Integrity

- information on rouge park or pathways
- plant tree seedlings?

It had been suggested that an Earth Day event be held indoors since April weather can be cool and wet, and be hosted in a place that people frequent e.g. a mall. However, it was reported that Markville Mall is currently undergoing major renovations so it is not possible to hold a community event there this year. Therefore, the sub-committee is recommending that an event be held instead from 10 am – 4 pm at the band shell on Main St., Unionville. Members of the sub-committee will liaise with Katie Burns to discuss and resolve issues such as insurance requirements, use of tents to allow for different stations, MECO staff involvement at the event, availability of literature and give-aways, entertainment, the possibility of including a BBQ, and the actual activities for the event.

The sub-committee will report on the outcome of the Earth Day discussions.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. SUSTAINABILITY TERMINOLOGY

Phil Fung made a presentation to explain terms and concepts found in Markham's GreenPrint Sustainability Plan, including "LEED", "Net Zero", "District Energy", and "Energy Model", and how they impact on our energy and climate. Markham can provide leadership on climate change by implementing the GreenPrint plan.

B. MEAC GOALS for 2012

Discussion of this item was deferred to the next meeting. It was noted that MEAC will be occupied with plans for Earth Hour and Earth Day.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Erica Tsang
Seconded by Chuan Li

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:05 PM.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday February 16, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.