



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES October 20, 2011

ATTENDANCE

Members

Christopher Sauer, Chair
Mylene Batista Bezerra
Kevin Boon
Phil Fung
Erika Lontoc
Marie LeGrow
Chuan Li
James Lin
Philip Ling
Councillor Joe Li
Carrie Sally
Elvis Nurse
Erica Tsang

Regrets

Rodney Yee
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Salim Manji
Adam Poon

Staff

Carlie Turpin, Committee Secretary
Katie Burns, Sustainability Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:28 PM with Christopher Sauer presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON September 15, 2011

It was:

Moved by Chuan Li

Seconded by James Lin

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) held on September 15, 2011 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. REGIONAL MEAC FORUM

James Lin advised MEAC was well represented at the regional forum that also included staff representation from surrounding York municipalities. There were a number of discussions surrounding the different initiatives being undertaken across the region with respect to environmental projects. The Committee discussed the fact that some other regions have more involvement from their municipal councils and staff and MEAC would like to see that happen in Markham as well.

Chris Sauer advised MEAC that Mayor Scarpitti presented the GreenPrint at the forum and his presentation was informative and well received by the audience. There was interest in replicating the paint collection undertaken by Georgina and electronic collection undertaken by Newmarket for Markham as a future initiative. These events would potentially draw people out and could be used for earth day/week etc. events. This would be a great opportunity to bring attention and educate the public about safe disposal of these items.

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

James Lin discussed the possibility of high school students being a good resource to explore for volunteer positions at events to fulfill their 40 hours of community service. Committee members agreed and would like to look into this further.

Kevin Boon discussed discharging of swimming pools into the sewer is not safe. He advised Aurora has a by-law against this, inquired if Markham had such a by-law.

Carrie Sally advised she would look into whether or not any sponsorship requests were put forth on behalf of MEAC to Power Stream for the earth hour event.

ACTION: Carrie to follow up with
Power Stream to determine
if any sponsorship requests were put forth.

B. MARKHAM BOARD OF TRADE CONFERENCE

Carrie advised the booth at the conference featured the GreenPrint, Power Stream, MEAC members and Victoria McGrath was in attendance. Limited attention given to the GreenPrint due to the small amount of time people spent at the booth and the nature of the event. Event was more focused on networking. Unsure if the opportunity should be explored again. Perhaps look at placing a booth in a local festival (Unionville festival, Markham Village festival etc.) where people may have more time to speak with representatives about the GreenPrint in more detail. However the conference did provide for a lot of exposure for MEAC but the committee may be more suited to a residential setting.

Phil Fung discussed his preference for using the Home Shows as a better avenue for getting the MEAC message out and reaching more people. Chuan Li advised she believed that literature provided by the committee could be catered specifically to businesses and residential separately to be more attractive to businesses.

At present the GreenPrint is more geared towards residential homes. Carrie Sally advised she can speak with Victoria McGrath about whether or not there will be any promotional material geared towards business in the future.

Elvis Nurse advised it would be beneficial to engage the youth segment of the population by working with the school board. Chris Sauer advised it will be difficult to implement any curriculum related changes. Elvis offered to speak with the school council at Unionville High school to see if there is any interest in the subject.

C. 2ND ANNUAL DEPUTY MAYOR'S WALK – SURVEY RESULTS

Mylene Batista Bezerra provided a PowerPoint presentation with an update of the survey results from the walk held on June 11, 2011 organized by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath and the committee. A copy of the presentation will be posted to the MEAC website. An overview of the first and second walk was provided to members. Mylene advised an online survey was conducted after the walk to obtain feedback from participants with a 50% participation rate. Overall very positive feedback was obtained from respondents.

D. COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE UPDATE – PHILIP LING

Philip Ling provided a map of the proposed path and identified issues with the Milne Pond area with concerns an actual path will not be created. All routes were presented and scores associated with each different route. Concerns associated with the installation of a cross walk to facilitate the path were identified at the meeting. Philip recommended that members walk the proposed paths and review the document he presented that will be posted on the MEAC website. Path issues such as construction methodology, path width (3m is too wide in general), construction material as they relate to an environmental footprint were discussed.

Philip offered to provide the document to all MEAC members with specific areas of concern highlighted to solicit MEAC feedback. MEAC members will review these sections individually and the committee will decide as a whole whether it has any commentary on any specific sections of the path proposal.

E. 2011 PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES SYMPOSIUM – NOVEMBER 19, 2011

Kevin Boon had been in contact with the registration committee in advance of the Oct 14 deadline. He was advised that he could register later. Kevin will be the MEAC representative at the event and will report back to MEAC at a future date.

F. JOAN JENKYN/TRCA FOLLOW UP

Chris Sauer wrote a letter on behalf of MEAC to send to Joan Jenkyn in response to her letter that he displayed for MEAC members to read. The letter acknowledged Ms. Jenkyn's concerns, outlined the fact that MEAC would like to have the TRCA at a future meeting, and offered to invite her to that meeting should the TRCA present at MEAC in the future.

It was:

Moved by Chuan Li
Seconded by Marie LeGrow

That the MEAC send the letter written by Chris Sauer to Joan Jenkyn.

Carried

G. UPDATE ON WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE

This item was deferred until the next meeting due to time constraints and requirement for longer discussion time. In the interim MEAC members are to provide comments/feedback to Mylene Batista Bezerra.

5. NEW BUSINESS

**A. GREENPRINT IMPLEMENTATION
MATRIX/RECOMMENDATIONS – KATIE BURNS, Sustainability Office**

Katie Burns presented a Power Point presentation to MEAC that was previously given by the Mayor regarding environmental sustainability and the Town of Markham's priorities. Chris Sauer would like to inquire if MEAC has a seat on the newly formed Agricultural Advisory Committee or if it can be arranged to have representation on that committee. Discussion took place surrounding the matrix/recommendations from the GreenPrint and MEAC's role in these recommendations.

Katie Burns will modify the chart of recommendations based on the feedback from MEAC members. MEAC members are to identify priorities that they can focus on in the coming year. Katie will provide MEAC with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation and matrix/recommendations for their review. MEAC members will review both the presentation and the matrix/recommendations and select an item they would like to see addressed in the coming year, keeping in mind MEAC's scope. Following feedback the committee will review items at the next MEAC meeting to establish priorities and timelines.

MEAC would like to explore having the terms of reference for their committee reviewed in light of them being created prior to the GreenPrint's creation. They would also like to determine if consistent staff representation is going to be provided at meetings as per discussions with the Mayor.

ACTION: Katie/MEAC to inquire if it is possible for MEAC to have representation on the Agricultural Advisory Committee and report back to MEAC.

ACTION: Katie to provide MEAC with copies of her presentation and the matrix/recommendations.

ACTION: Katie to inquire with her department if MEAC will be receiving consistent staff support.

**B. DISCUSSION – EARTH HOUR/DAY/WEEK POSSIBLE PLANS FOR 2012
(OTHER MEAC PLANS)**

This was discussed in conjunction with Katie's presentation. Due to time constraints MEAC members are to provide via Google docs an idea of what they would like to see MEAC accomplish in the upcoming year. This document will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

Given the short time frame between now and Earth Day/Week, MEAC discussed having a meeting or an informal meeting in December to move plans forward. In addition, the concept of a subcommittee working on Earth Day/Week was also mentioned.

C. VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENT – JAMES LIN

It was:

Moved by Chris Sauer

Seconded by Kevin Boon

That James Lin be appointed by unanimous acclamation as the Vice Chair of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee.

Carried

6. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday November 17, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.