



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES May 19, 2011

ATTENDANCE

Members

Christopher Sauer, Chair
Mylene Batista Bezerra
Phil Fung
James Lin
Philip Ling
Brent Mersey
Zahra Parhizgari
Carrie Sally
Erica Tsang
Councillor Joe Li
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Regrets

Lloyd Helferty
Erika Lontoc
Tom Rado
Dennis Yip

Staff

Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:15 PM with Christopher Sauer presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with the following additions:

- Waste Diversion Sub-committee
- Resignation of Zahra Parhizgari
- Environmental Issues Committee

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 21, 2011

It was

Moved by James Lin
Seconded by Phil Fung

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) held on April 21, 2011 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. MEAC GOALS for 2011

Chris Sauer reviewed the list of previously identified priorities. Committee members identified the goals for which they would be interested in leading and in assisting.

Goal	Lead	Assist
"Night Sky Protection"	Tom Rado	
Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee	Tom Rado	
Community solar initiatives	Chris Sauer	Philip Ling Erica Tsang Phil Fung
Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund (MESF) outreach	Mylene Batista Bezerra	Philip Ling Chris Sauer
Food Forest/Permaculture/Community Gardens	Lloyd Helferty	Phil Fung Brent Mersey
Engage with Town of Markham staff	Tom Rado	Philip Ling Chris Sauer
Corporate Outreach	Carrie Sally Erica Lontoc	

B. COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE UPDATE

Philip Ling reported that the latest meeting was very focused and used ways to get meaningful feedback from committee members. The committee is discussing the creation of a multi use pathway from Toogood Pond to Bob Hunter Memorial Park; it also is providing advice on matters such as location, accessibility, safety issues, appearance, heritage features, connection to other pathways, nature issues such as erosion, ongoing maintenance and waste management, impact on the environment, and conformance to Markham's Official Plan.

C. CORPORATE OUTREACH

Carrie Sally reviewed details of a business to business Trade Show to be sponsored by the Markham Board of Trade; it will be held at the York Downs Golf & Country Club on September 22, 2011 from 4 -8 pm. There will be 38 booths and the show could attract many attendees. Chris Sauer reminded Committee members that MEAC's goals include promoting environmental awareness among local business in Markham. Following discussion, it was agreed that it might be wise to take advantage of this opportunity to facilitate outreach to its target audience of small and medium sized businesses rather than host a stand-alone event. Carrie Sally will share the trade show information with Erika Lontoc. Mylene Batista Bezerra volunteered to assist with MEAC's participation in the event.

D. 2nd ANNUAL DEPUTY MAYOR'S WALK

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath advised that the 2nd annual Deputy Mayor's Walk is scheduled for Saturday, June 11 at 1 p.m. for approximately 2 hours. The walk is part of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Rouge Days, a celebration of the Rouge Watershed. It will take place along Markham's Rouge River Valley, beginning near Toogood Pond then following the valley to the west edge of Milne Park. Invitations will be issued to Council, the board of the TRCA, the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee, the Markham Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Rouge Park Alliance, the Milne Park Conservation Working Group, and attendees from last year's walk.

Four or five ambassador/guides will be needed to ensure that all those taking part sign waiver forms and assist in guiding them along the walk route. A bus will return everyone to the starting point. Christopher Sauer, Mylene Batista Bezerra, James Lin and Philip Ling volunteered to be ambassadors/guides. MEAC also commits to creating an online survey and emailing it to everyone who took part to get their feedback about the walk.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. LETTER FROM JOAN JENKYN RE: EAST DON RIVER

Brent Mersey advised that Joan Jenkyn was a former member of MEAC and that she and her husband are engaged with environmental matters. Chris Sauer suggested that MEAC review the TRCA report card that Ms. Jenkyn refers to. Following a suggestion that the TRCA be invited to a future MEAC meeting to discuss the report card, Chris Sauer agreed to send the invitation.

B. GREENPRINT IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Philip Ling reported that Victoria McGrath, Director, Sustainability Office will be presenting the final GreenPrint plan for approval at the May 31 Development Services Committee meeting. She hoped that MEAC members would be able to attend the meeting to relate the importance that MEAC places on its role to advance sustainability efforts such as the GreenPrint plan. The current draft of the plan provides a chapter on governance and financing and has separated the objectives, recommendations, timing and responsibilities for implementation into an implementation matrix at the end of the plan. Ms. McGrath will attend a future MEAC meeting to review the implementation matrix with the committee and discuss how the committee would like to be involved.

C. SUSTAINABILITY TERMINOLOGY

Phil Fung agreed to defer his presentation to the next meeting.

D. WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reminded Committee members that Markham is a leader in waste diversion. He advised that the Waste Diversion Sub-Committee will meet over the next few months to consider a number of initiatives to increase Markham's waste diversion rate from 72% to 80% and that he would like a MEAC member to sit on the sub-committee. Chris Sauer agreed that this was an important initiative and MEAC should support it. Mylene Batista Bezerra volunteered as a possible representative depending on the timing of meetings; James Lin volunteered as an alternate representative.

E. RESIGNATION OF ZAHRA PARHIZGARI

On behalf of Chair Tom Rado and all Committee members, Chris Sauer accepted the resignation of Zahra Parhizgari with regret. He thanked her for her contributions to the Committee's efforts and advised her that she would always be welcome either as a member or as a guest.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Mylene Batista Bezerra reported that at the May 5th meeting, Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator, Environmental Planning & Rouge Park, made a presentation about the Southeast Collector Enhancement Projects; \$1,000,000 was available to be allocated to potential projects and was allocated as follows: \$200,000 for Scholarship Funding; \$5,000 for interpretive signage program; \$250,000 for trail improvements east of Milne Dam conservation Area down to 14th Avenue; \$400,000 for Box Grove Park (community) Improvements; \$25,000 for the Dimma House relocation; \$120,000 for the Locust Hill School House restoration.

Ms. Batista Bezerra also reported that in 2008, Town of Markham Council endorsed an Environmental Land strategy for 26 sites and that Mr. Robert Orland, Better Planet Investments was hired to assist in that process. Mr. Orland made a presentation regarding Strategic Land Securement, which was well received.

It was also reported that the Environmental Issues Committee considered Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund (MESF) applications. Among others, Mr. Graham Seaman, Manager Climate Change & Energy made a presentation about a proposed Community Energy and Water Social Benchmarking Pilot where water and energy usage of individual homes would be monitored for one year.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday June 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.