



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES November 17, 2011

ATTENDANCE

Members

Christopher Sauer, Chair
Mylene Batista Bezerra
Kevin Boon
Marie Legrow
Chuan Li
James Lin
Philip Ling
Salim Manji
Tom Rado
Carrie Sally
Erica Tsang
Rodney Yee
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Regrets

Phil Fung
Erika Lontoc
Elvis Nurse
Adam Poon
Councillor Joe Li

Staff

Laura Gold, Clerk`s Office
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.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with one addition:
- Motion relating to the Markham Agricultural Advisory Committee

3. ORIENTATION

Laura Gold, Council and Committee Coordinator, Clerk`s Department, made a presentation designed to help familiarize Committee members with their volunteer role on the Committee. Topics included Municipal governance, roles and expectations, Accessibility considerations, Diversity considerations, Privacy & Confidentiality considerations, media relations, procedures & meeting management, and meeting effectiveness.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2011

Moved by Phil Ling
Seconded by Chuan Li

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) held on October 20, 2011 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE

Mylene Batista Bezerra reported that Committee members had forwarded three recommendations for the Town of Markham to consider as waste diversion initiatives:

- provide incentives to businesses such as restaurants and grocery stores to reduce waste,
- encourage the public attending events to bring mugs rather than plastic bottles, and,
- increase education about the benefits of waste reduction.

Committee members suggested that the Town of Markham might realize the greatest results by focusing on diverting waste from business and wondered whether it could compete as a business with a three tier system for the collection of business waste.

Moved by Kevin Boon
Seconded by James Lin

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) request the Town of Markham Council additional information on the status of the creation of policies that achieve diversion opportunities for non-residential and high rise residential waste such as commercial and small business, government and others.

Carried

B. COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE UPDATE

Philip Ling advised that there was no new information to report. He led Committee discussion about route preference for the proposed pathway from Toogood Pond to Bob Hunter Memorial Park.

Moved by Philip Ling
Seconded by Kevin Boon

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) recommend to the Town of Markham Council that the route for the pathway from Toogood Pond to Bob Hunter Memorial Park should remain entirely within the park lands/green space.

Carried

C. LETTER FROM JOAN JENKYN RE: EAST DON RIVER

Chris Sauer reported that a reply on behalf of MEAC was sent to Ms. Jenkyn. He will follow up with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to invite representatives to a future MEAC meeting to discuss the report card.

D. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION ITEMS

Regional EAC Forum

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

Earth Day

Carrie Sally reported that Graham Seaman, Manager Climate Change and Energy, Markham Energy Conservation Office, has submitted a sponsorship request to Power Stream for an Earth Day event. She hopes to advise at the next meeting whether the request has been approved.

Discharging water from swimming pools into sewers

Kevin Boon will research municipal policies on this issue.

Outreach

No report was available. Elvis Nurse had offered to speak with the school council at Unionville High school to see if there might be interest in working with to engage students in environmental issues and MEAC initiatives.

Carrie Sally advised she will discuss with Victoria McGrath the potential for environmental promotional material geared towards business. This will be discussed at the January meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. EARTH HOUR/DAY/WEEK POSSIBLE PLANS FOR 2012

Chris Sauer led a discussion of ideas for Town of Markham Earth Day initiatives where MEAC could assist the Town of Markham Sustainability Office. It was agreed that potential events should tie back to the GreenPrint Sustainability Plan, be hosted in places that people frequent e.g. malls, and be held indoors since Earth Day is in April and the weather could be cool and wet. It was suggested that promotional items could include coupons and/or magnets. Ideas for Earth Day events included:

- a paint swap
- a mobile hazardous waste depot, e.g. for batteries, light bulbs with mercury
- planting tree seedlings

It was noted that the Youth Environmental Network of York Region, which strives to give students a chance to learn about their environment, might be interested in working with MEAC on Earth Day initiatives.

An Earth Day subcommittee was formed to liaise with the Sustainability Office and to recruit students to assist in Earth Day initiatives. Members include:

Mylene Batista Bezerra
Marie Legrow
Chuan Li
Carrie Sally
Chris Sauer

Chuan Li will coordinate meetings of the subcommittee. She will try to include representatives from the Sustainability Office at the first meeting.

B. MEAC GOALS for 2012

Chris Sauer asked Committee members to keep Town of Markham environmental priorities in mind when considering possible MEAC goals for 2012. Discussion of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

C. MARKHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Moved by James Lin
Seconded by Erica Tsang

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) recommend to Town of Markham Council that a representative from the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) be appointed to the Markham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Carried

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Carrie Sally
Seconded by Erica Tsang

That the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 9:15 PM.

Carried

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday January 19, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.