

The meeting of the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 in the Mulock Room, 395 Mulock Drive, Newmarket.

Members Present: John Birchall
 David Kempton
 Petra Vollmerhausen
 Councillor Vegh

Absent: Jill King
 Cathie Ethier

Staff Present: P. Noehammer, Commissioner, Development and Infrastructure
 Services
 H.Leznoff, Council Committee Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Petra Vollmerhausen in the Chair.

Additions & Corrections to the Agenda

None.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

Approval of Minutes

1. Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2016.

Moved by: J. Birchall
Seconded by: D. Kempton

That the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2016 be received.

2. Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2017.

Moved by: J. Birchall
Seconded by: D. Kempton

That the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2017 be received.

Carried

Correspondence

3. Correspondence items, previously distributed by e-mail.

Moved by: D. Kempton
Seconded by: J. Birchall

That the correspondence items, previously distributed by e-mail, be received.

Carried

Items

4. Public Engagement and Environmental Events.
 - a) Garage Sale Discussion

P. Vollmerhausen advised that she was experiencing difficulty securing a location and volunteers for the garage sale. The Commissioner of Development and Infrastructure Services agreed to provide information about a potential site for the garage sale as an alternate venue. Other options such as cancelling the garage sale or rescheduling it to the fall were discussed and Petra advised that a decision would be made once the information about the alternate venue was received.

- b) Newmarket Farmer's Market Attendance

This item was deferred to a future meeting or through informal discussion.

5. Q & A with the Commissioner of Development and Infrastructure Services

Committee Members and the Commissioner of Development and Infrastructure Services discussed the function of the Environmental Advisory Committee and if it is appropriate to fill the current vacancies at this time.

The Commissioner of Development and Infrastructure Services discussed the role of the Committee as an Advisory Committee and indicated how the terms of reference and work plan of the Committee align with Council's strategic priorities. He advised that there is an advocacy component of the committee through education and outreach but that these areas should still align with the work plan rather than individual committee member's areas of interest. He identified two main areas of discussion. Firstly, are the Terms of Reference still meaningful for the Town and Committee? Secondly, if there is a stronger interest for committee members to advocate for particular environmental issues, then perhaps the committee meeting structure is not the best forum for those initiatives.

Committee members discussed their work plan and expressed frustrations with the narrow scope of work assigned in the Terms of Reference, the few occasions where they were asked for input, and their lack of accomplishments achieved.

A decision was made that the Committee would work with the Terms of Reference and current work plan to find areas to pursue, specifically community involvement and education/outreach. It was suggested that environmental policy advice, rather than project advice, could be an area to consider. Revisions to the work plan would be brought to Council for approval.

There was concurrence that the vacant positions should not be filled at this time due to the on-going consideration being given by the existing members of the Committee to the work plan.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Moved by: J. Birchall
Seconded by: Councillor Vegh

That the meeting adjourn at 8:17 PM.

Carried

Date

Petra Vollmerhausen, Chair