



Electronic Animal Care Committee MINUTES

**February 17, 2021
ZOOM
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

Members Present

Valerie Burke, Vice-Chair
Areez Remtulla
Aviva Harari
Bernice Royce
Dr. Esther Attard
Janet Andrews
Judy Postello
June Ziola
Sherry Klein
Vikrum Pain

Regrets

Denielle Duncan, Chair

Staff

Christy Lehman, Licensing & Animal Services Coordinator
John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:40 PM with Valerie Burke in the Chair.	
2. Approval of the January 20, 2021 Animal Care Committee Minutes	<p>The following amendments were made to the minutes of the January 20, 2021 Animal Care Committee meeting:</p> <p>7) New Business</p> <p>a. Valerie advised that the husband of a former member of the Animal Care Committee passed away recently. Valerie volunteered, and the Members agreed to send her a Condolence Card.</p>	

	<p>Moved by Areez Remtulla Seconded by Bernice Royce</p> <p>That the January 20, 2021 Animal Care Committee Minutes be approved, as amended.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	
3. Business Arising from the Minutes	<p>Committee reviewed the list of action items and updated the Action Item Table (view last page of minute document to see table).</p> <p>1) Webpage visits Statistics of the visits to the Animal Services webpage was circulated along with the Agenda.</p> <p>2) Pet Hero App The email from Anna Tennyson containing information about the Pet Hero App was circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>3) Animal Services Officers to install Pet Hero App on mobile devices. After extensive discussion on the presentation by Anna Tennyson, the Committee unanimously agreed to not support the Pet Hero App initiative at this time.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Valerie, Christy agreed to confirm with the Deputy Clerk if a response to Anna Tennyson should be sent by the ACC or by City staff, considering that Anna was referred to the ACC by the Mayor's Office.</p>	Christy to confirm with Martha about who should respond to Anna Tennyson
4. Animal Services Program Update	<p><u>Cat Adoption & Education Centre</u> Christy Lehman, Licensing & Animal Services Coordinator advised that the CAEC continues to remain closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation and the restrictions imposed on businesses in the province of Ontario.</p> <p>Christy further advised that the OSPCA is trying to organize online virtual learning programs, and they are looking at launching the 'future vet' online program. It is proposed to send the online program links to all the school boards. The</p>	

	<p>CAEC is looking at doing something similar to this initiative.</p> <p>Christy advised that the CAEC is planning a competition for a new logo to commemorate its 5th anniversary.</p> <p>Christy advised that the appointment of the Animal Care Supervisor position is likely to be announced next week. She also advised that a huge number of applications for the Animal Services Officer position have been received and staff are in the process of reviewing and short-listing applicants for interviews.</p> <p>With a view to engaging with the CAEC and their reading program, Aviva suggested that this could be easily done virtually. Aviva advised that her daughter is a teacher with the Toronto District School Board and she would be happy to share some engagement activities/programs that could benefit the CAEC.</p> <p>Christy advised that the CAEC is looking to partner with the Markham Libraries on some activities for the kids and animal related books. Christy agreed to connect with Aviva's daughter to further discuss on this initiative.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Areez, Christy advised that the Animal Services Supervisor will be attending the ACC meetings. It may be challenging for the Animal Services Officers to attend meetings, due to their shift duty times.</p>	<p>Christy to connect with Aviva's daughter on animal related activities for kids.</p>
5. Events	<p>a. Fundraising</p> <p>i. Update from Legal and Finance: A response from the Legal and Finance Departments was circulated to the members of the Animal Care Committee in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the Cookbook project and the recipes and other materials that will be included in the Cookbook.</p> <p>Moved by Aviva Harari</p>	

	<p>Seconded by Judy Postello</p> <p>That the information on the Cookbook be received and deferred to the first in-person meeting of the Animal Care Committee for further consideration.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p> <p>b. Events No events have been scheduled for this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation.</p>	
6. New Business	<p>a. Cat rescue charity faces eviction, fears cats will be seized A news article from the Toronto Sun of February 11, 2021, about the North Toronto Cat Rescue was circulated to the Animal Care Committee in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>b. City of Markham ACC email account The Committee discussed the updating of the markhamACC@gmail.com email account which was started at the time of the auctions. Janet agreed to work with June on this matter.</p> <p>c. Wildlife Brochure June suggested that the Wildlife Brochure that she had started working on along with Denielle, should be included on a future ACC agenda for consideration.</p> <p>Christy advised that the City's Corporate Communications Department has created a "markham.ca/wildlife" page on the City's website that contains information specific to foxes, coyotes and rats. It is anticipated that more information on wildlife is likely to be forthcoming soon which would include brochures, etc. Christy suggested that this matter be included on the March ACC agenda for an update and more direction that would be helpful for the Committee.</p> <p>Christy advised that she recently had a newspaper and radio interview on coyotes and foxes that will be airing on the weekend.</p>	<p>Janet to work with June on this matter</p> <p>Laura to add an item on this matter on the March ACC agenda.</p>

	<p>There has been a lot of coyote sightings and increased community inquiries in this regard.</p> <p>Dr. Esther Attard advised that the City of Toronto, in partnership with Coyote Watch Canada, has developed an e-learning module on Coyotes in the Urban Landscape to learn basic facts about coyote behaviour and how both animals and people can remain safe. It is anticipated that this module will be shared with schools, as well, as a learning module.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the issue of feeding wildlife which is a key contributing factor to the increased sightings of wildlife in the community.</p> <p>d. Cats of Cornwall Judy advised the Committee about a TVO documentary on Cats of Cornwall. Cornwall, Ontario is a small town with a huge feral cat problem where advocates are fighting for humane solutions.</p>	
7. Communication	a. No discussion	
8. Date of the Next Meeting	The next Animal Care Committee meeting will be held on March 17, 2021, 5:30 PM.	
9. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 6:40 PM	

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	Meeting Date	Person Responsible	Status
Contact the Volunteer Manager regarding the automated response to the volunteer application, as some volunteers said they did not get the response.	February 19, 2020	Christy Lehman	Completed
Update the Animal Services page on the City's Website	February 19, 2020 November 18, 2020	Christy Lehman June Heather Ziola	Completed
Confirm if the Guinea pigs are spayed.	March 9, 2020	Christy Lehman	Completed
Coordinate tour of Shade of Hope and CAEC	March 9, 2020	Christy Lehman	On hold due to the pandemic
Put together Cookbook proposal for the next meeting.	October 28, 2020	Judy Postello, June Ziola, and other Sub-Committee Members	Completed
Provide Laura Gold with the 2021 event dates, and proclamation description and dates	November 18, 2020	Areez Remtulla	Completed
Asked Finance if the Committee can use its funds from its account towards the project	November 18, 2020	Laura Gold	Completed
Research if recipes can be used from other sources	November 18, 2020	June Ziola, and Judy Postello	Completed
Provide info to Laura Gold on	December 16, 2020	June Ziola	Completed

Action Item	Meeting Date	Person Responsible	Status
using recipes from other sources			
Provide information on using recipes from other sources to the City's Legal Department	December 16, 2020	Laura Gold	Completed
Conduct a breakeven analysis to determine the ideal price of the cookbook	December 16, 2020	Judy Postello	On hold awaiting legal advice from the City's Legal Department
See if the City can track how many people visited the City's Animal Services web page	December 16, 2020	Christy Lehman/Laura Gold	Completed
Find out if Cookbook requires HST	January 20, 2021	Christy Lehman to check with Finance	Completed
Information on Pet Hero App to be circulated when received from Ana Tennyson of Pet Hero.	January 20, 2021	John Britto	Completed
Response to Anna Tennyson, Pet Hero App	February 17, 2021	Christy to confirm from Martha Pettit	
Animal related activities for kids	February 17, 2021	Christy to connect with Aviva's daughter	
Updating the ACC email account	February 17, 2021	Janet and June to work together on this	
Markham.ca/wildlife	February 17, 2021	Laura to include as an agenda item	