



## Electronic Animal Care Committee MINUTES

**March 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, Supervisor, Licensing & Standards  
John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:35 PM with Valerie Burke in the Chair.	
<b>2. Approval of the February 17, 2021 Animal Care Committee Minutes</b>	<p>The following amendment was made to the minutes of the February 17, 2021 Animal Care Committee meeting:</p> <p><b>4. Animal Services Program Update</b> Page 3 of 7. A typographical error (as highlighted) was corrected:</p> <p>Aviva advised that her daughter is a teacher with the Toronto District School Board.</p>	

	<p>Moved by Dr. Esther Attard Seconded by Bernice Royce</p> <p>That the minutes of the February 17, 2021 Animal Care Committee meeting be approved, as amended.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	
<p><b>3. Business Arising from the Minutes</b></p>	<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><b>a. Markham.ca/wildlife</b> Christy advised that she did not recall requesting this item to be included on the March 17, 2021 agenda. She further advised that staff are in the process of updating the newly created website with additional wildlife information.</p> <p>Christy advised that since being appointed as the Animal Care Supervisor, she has been devoting most of her time to get the animal services program up and running before April 1, 2021, hence has not been able to devote much time to update the website with the wildlife page, or to connect with Aviva and/or her daughter. Committee recommended contacting the school boards in general. Christy suggested this Item be listed on the agenda for a future – possibly the May ACC meeting.</p> <p>Valerie congratulated Christy on her appointment to the Supervisor position.</p> <p>Valerie advised that she was very pleased to see information on coyotes on the web page, considering the community concerns with respect to the rise in coyote sightings. She reiterated the Committee's support to help staff in this regard.</p>	<p><b>[Christy to contact School Boards on animal related activities for children.] Laura to include this item on the May 2021 ACC meeting agenda.</b></p>
<p><b>4. Animal Services Program Update</b></p>	<p><b>a. Cat Adoption &amp; Education Centre</b> Christy Lehman, Supervisor, Licensing &amp; Standards advised that the CAEC continues to remain closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation and the restrictions</p>	

	<p>imposed on businesses in the province of Ontario.</p> <p>Christy further advised that the CAEC is in the process of launching virtual activities for kids, and information will be disseminated soon on these virtual online activities for kids to sign up.</p> <p>Christy agreed to circulate this information to the ACC to pass on to their networks.</p> <p>Christy advised that the CAEC is looking at other community engagement activities and requested Committee members to send her their suggestions by email. Christy further advised that, considering the ongoing pandemic situation, educating the community on wildlife related matters is the current goal.</p>	<p><b>Christy to circulate info on virtual online activities to the ACC.</b></p>
<p><b>b. Events</b></p>	<p><b>a. Fundraising</b>  <b>Cookbook put on hold till the Committee meets in person:</b>  Valerie reminded the members that the Cookbook project has been temporarily put on hold till the Committee is able to meet in person.</p> <p>Valerie advised that she sent an email to Lisa, on behalf of the Committee, thanking her for answering the Committee's questions on Copyright issues with respect to the Cookbook project.</p> <p><b>b. Discuss events scheduled for the remainder of the year</b>  No events have been scheduled for this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation.</p> <p>Valerie advised that the Action Item relating to Animal Services Officers installing the Pet Hero App on their mobile devices be deleted from the Action Items List.</p> <p>Valerie further advised that a response was sent to Anna Tennyson of Hero App, with a copy to the Mayor's Chief of Staff, thanking Anna for her presentation to the ACC in January.</p>	<p><b>This Action Item was deleted, as advised.</b></p>

	<p>Valerie further advised that as Anna was referred to the Committee by the Mayor's Office, she spoke to Bryan Frois, the Mayor's Chief of Staff (in a telephone conversation) and advised him that she would be happy to respond to any questions that the Mayor may have in this regard.</p> <p>Valerie also informed she would be happy to respond to any question/s from Anna.</p> <p>Aviva advised that her daughter is currently busy organizing virtual learning classes and materials for the kids and suggested that the various York Region School Boards could also be contacted to explore potential wildlife related activities for kids.</p> <p>Areez Remtulla advised that his girlfriend is also a teacher, and he is happy to reach out to her and her teacher colleagues, as well, to explore opportunities for online activities for kids.</p> <p>Aviva suggested virtual field trips for kids.</p> <p>Dr. Esther Attard advised that she is happy to explore virtual field trip opportunities with Toronto.</p> <p>Christy agreed to reach out to the OSPCA, as well, to explore if they could provide similar activities for kids.</p> <p>Valerie advised that the ACC is happy to assist Animal Services staff in this initiative.</p>	
<b>6. New Business</b>	<p><b>a. Bird window collision guide</b>  Aviva advised that one of her friend's son who is doing a Ph.D. in bird related studies referred her to an online resource that provides information on the widespread hazard for migratory and resident birds.</p> <p>Valerie advised that the City of Markham was a leader through the adoption of bird friendly guidelines and actions. She further advised that the City won a planning award for these bird friendly guidelines. The City has a printed pamphlet that provides information to homeowners on "keeping birds safe".</p>	<p><b>Aviva to confirm from her friend's son if Bird Safety materials published in a London newspaper can be used by the City of Markham</b></p>



	<p><b>b. Brampton Animal Services</b></p> <p>Dr. Esther Attard advised that the City of Brampton is not the first in Canada to offer Home to Home service for pets, as portrayed in the information leaflet circulated to the Committee.</p> <p>Christy advised that this is a relatively new program, and there could be potential liability issues involved with pet owners finding new homes for their pets without having to surrender the pets to animal shelters.</p> <p>One of the examples provided was if a pet owner does not disclose the behaviour of an aggressive dog. Christy suggested that this initiative would need further investigation.</p> <p>Dr. Esther Attard advised that there could be potential risks involved for a municipality to endorse such an initiative without proper due diligence in potential risks and/or liabilities that could be involved.</p> <p>Janet raised potential personal safety issues as well.</p> <p>The Committee discussed many risks / potential risk factors with respect to direct 'home-to-home' pet services.</p> <p>Christy agreed to contact Cathy Duncan to make further inquiries / investigations into this matter, and will update the Committee at a future meeting.</p> <p>Valerie inquired about the status of a recommendation from the ACC with respect to the Legislative Services Animal Care Model approved by Council in 2020. Christy advised that the ACC recommendation is on the agenda for consideration by General Committee at its meeting on Monday, March 22, 2021.</p> <p>June alerted the Committee about the issue of pet licence renewal notifications.</p>	<p><b>Christy to contact Cathy Duncan, and investigate Home To Home service for pets and report back to a future ACC meeting.</b></p>
--	--	---

	<p>Christy advised that all licence renewal notifications have been impacted due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. However, current licences will remain valid till renewal notices are mailed out, which will likely happen by the end of March 2021.</p> <p>Christy further advised that all Councillors will be requested to advise their constituents about this matter through their newsletters.</p> <p>June agreed to update and annotate the inconsistencies on all pet licensing web pages to make it a more trustworthy source.</p> <p><b>c. Raccoon in distress</b> Aviva advised of a racoon in distress event that she reported to the OSPCA, and expressed appreciation for the outstanding efforts of Logan Ramage, the OSPCA Officer who responded to her call.</p> <p><b>d. Alleged poison found in a local park</b> Aviva advised of an incident that was reported to the police involving an alleged powder-covered bacon strip was found in a pathway near the Heintzman House. Police investigated the event and have advised that "It has not been confirmed at this stage if there was poison on it, but investigators want to remind pet owners to remain vigilant and ensure that pets don't eat anything found on the ground."</p>	<p><b>June to update and annotate inconsistencies on pet licensing web pages</b></p>
<b>7. Communication</b>	<b>None</b>	
<b>8. Date of the Next Meeting</b>	The next Animal Care Committee meeting will be held on April 21, 2021, 5:30 PM.	
<b>9. Adjournment</b>	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 6:31 PM	

## **ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
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	Completed
Animal related activities for kids	February 17, 2021	Christy to cotact York Region School Board	
Updating the ACC email account	February 17, 2021	Janet and June to work together on this	Completed
CAEC virtual online activities for kids	March 17, 2021	Christy to circulate information to ACC to pass on to their networks.	
FLAP.org – Michael Measure, Executive Director / co-founder FLAP Canada.	March 17, 2021	Laura to invite Michael Measure to a future ACC meeting to present on keeping birds safe	
Pamphlets / material on Birds	March 17, 2021	Christy to contact Shades of Hope for pamphlets / material on Birds.	

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
Bird Safety material published in a London newspaper	March 17, 2021	Aviva to confirm from her friend's son of any copyright issues using these materials by the City of Markham	
Protocol for inviting Councillors to a presentation at a future ACC meeting	March 17, 2021	Christy to confirm from the Clerks Office	
Home To Home service for pets	March 17, 2021	Christy to contact Cathy Duncan and report back to a future ACC meeting	
Update and annotate the inconsistencies on all pet licensing web pages	March 17, 2021	June to update and annotate the inconsistencies on all pet licensing web pages.	