



**Electronic Animal Care Committee
MINUTES
September 22, 2021
ZOOM
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

Members Present

Valerie Burke, Vice-Chair
Aviva Harari
Janet Andrews
Judy Postello
June Ziola
Vikrum Pain
Areez Remtulla
Sherry Klein

Regrets

Denielle Duncan, Chair
Dr. Esther Attard
Bernice Royce

Guests

None

Staff

Christy Lehman, Animal Care Supervisor
John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:30 PM with Valerie Burke in the Chair.	
2. Approval of the May 19, 2021 Animal Care Committee Meeting Minutes	<p>The Status of Action Item 1. was amended to: On hold awaiting in person meetings; and</p> <p>The Status of Action Item 4. was amended to: Completed.</p> <p>Moved by Janet Andrews Seconded by June Postello</p> <p>That the minutes of the May 19, 2021 Animal Care Committee meeting be approved, as amended.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	

<p>3. Business Arising from the Minutes</p>	<p>Committee reviewed the list of action items and updated the Action Item Table (view last page of the minute's document for details).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Committee Financial Report:</u> Valerie advised that Laura Gold and Christy managed to get us the balance as of September 22, 2021, is \$4,153.00. She further advised that there are no other details, as there were no events last year due to the ongoing pandemic situation. <p>Christy advised that she had received two envelopes in March 2020, containing some donations received at the first event in 2020 that will be added in the next meeting. Christy will advise the balance by the end of the year.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to provide financial updates to the Committee every quarter.</p> <p>Judy advised that she had requested bank statements and provided them to the Committee at least twice in the past.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Status of Donations to ACC:</u> Valerie advised that Christy informed her that donations received by the City do not go directly to the Animal Care Committee. - <u>Update on revising inconsistencies on website – animal licensing and ACC description:</u> Christy advised that she is not able to find any reference to what needs to be changed. The only information she could find is the Committee's Terms of Reference. She requested that the actual web address be provided to her, so she can copy and paste the description from the Terms of Reference onto that page. <p>June advised that the definition in the online license renewal page refers to requesting money that does not come to the Animal Care Committee, and that's what is outlined in the minutes from the May ACC meeting. She further advised that this is not on the</p>	
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	<p>main descriptive pages, a lot of which has been updated. The Committee has not decided whether this should be deleted as the money does not come to the Committee.</p> <p>Valerie advised that there needs to be a description of the Committee somewhere on the website.</p> <p>Christy advised that the description of the Committee is under the Terms of Reference page, where all the other advisory committees are also listed. She further advised that she will need to contact the IT Department, as the Form is through the web portal. This may involve revising the entire Pet Licensing Renewal Form. She further advised that this change is not as simple as the other changes that have been done.</p> <p>June suggested that as this is being done, it may be beneficial to change the Renewal Form, as it appears that the form was last updated in 2015 and does not look like the current 2020-2021 Form.</p> <p>Christy agreed to request IT to delete the sample Form altogether. She further advised that IT may not allow her to change the Form every year.</p> <p>Aviva was of the opinion that the reference to the donation in the Pet Licensing Form implies that the money comes to the Committee, but in fact it goes to the City, and this has been an issue for a number of years.</p> <p>Christy reiterated that this is not a simple task, and that she will have to make an ITS request, which will be rated according to their priority, which is most likely to be at a lower end considering the current pandemic related priorities.</p> <p>Aviva was of the opinion that this issue has been debated for close to three years which was even before the pandemic and should be taken up as a priority.</p>	
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	<p>Christy advised that she will try her best to request IT to prioritize this request.</p> <p>Janet suggested that if information on the Pet Licensing page is being updated, can a change be made on the City's webpage to include a list of all the services that the City provides to support Animal Services so people can be made aware of the programs they are supporting when they register their pets and/or renew their pet licenses.</p> <p>Christy advised that eventually she plans on doing this, but due to other work-related priorities, she is unable to do it at this time. She further advised that she has a staff member dedicated for website related work as well as hardcopy Animal Services materials.</p> <p>Responding to a question, Christy advised that these changes will not be reflected in the renewal notices that will be sent out in November this year. She further advised that this could be ready for the 2022 renewals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>General update regarding additional information:</u> No update on this matter. - <u>Update re coyote response presentation at General Committee May 31, 2021:</u> Aviva inquired whether some information on the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) "No Mow May" campaign initiative could be included on the website. The impetus behind No Mow May is to give pollinators, like bees, more time to undertake their work. The mow-free period allows more flowers to grow so pollinators can collect more nectar. Postponing mowing until June helps plants create enough nectar for up to 10 times more bees and other pollinators. <p>Valerie advised that the City of Markham is the first municipality to be monarch butterfly friendly. She further advised that when she</p>	<p>Christy to update web page this quarter and include a list of animal services programs in the 2022 renewal notices.</p>
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	<p>was a councillor, she championed the pollinator aspect and the City went to great lengths to open up Canada's first municipal milkweed nursery, in partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation at the Milne Dam Conservation Park, that provides a habitat and vital food source for monarch butterfly caterpillars. The milkweed nurseries further the City's commitment to provide spaces for pollinators like monarchs. Butterflies, together with bees, birds, beetles, and other pollinating animals help to support up to 75 per cent of the world's food crops.</p> <p>Aviva inquired whether this is an opportunity for the Committee to become more visible by partnering with either the Sustainability Department or the Thornhill Horticultural Society. She also inquired whether there is an opportunity to partner with the Horticultural Society during their annual plant sale when milkweed plants could be distributed to the community for planting in their gardens. Education sessions on native and/or invasive species could also be organized.</p> <p>Valerie advised that these are good suggestions, but there are limitations due to the ongoing pandemic situation.</p> <p>Janet also thought this to be a good idea and suggested including this initiative on the Action List for potential presentations from the Sustainability Department or the Horticultural Society when the Committee is able to meet in person.</p> <p>Valerie agreed with this idea, as there is a good foundation on this initiative in the City. She further suggested that more information be sought from the City's Sustainability Department and/or they could advise on how the Committee could assist in this initiative.</p> <p>Aviva inquired whether the City could promote a "No Mow May" initiative.</p>	<p>Mary-Jane to contact Parks, By-laws and Sustainability to arrange for a joint presentation to the ACC in the fall or winter months</p>
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	<p>Valerie advised that when she was a councillor, staff had advised that dandelions are a great help to pollinators and was of the opinion that the ACC could definitely promote this initiative.</p> <p>Aviva advised that lesser mowing of city owned areas, like street boulevards, could be a cost saving benefit for the City.</p> <p>To this, Valerie advised that the challenge was that residents are of the opinion that if they were expected to maintain their lawns to a certain standard, they expect the City to follow suit for city owned lawns.</p> <p>Valerie suggested that Clerks contact the City's Parks, By-laws and Sustainability Departments to arrange for a joint presentation to the ACC in the fall or winter months.</p> <p>Valerie suggested that Committee members reach out to their local and regional councillors to express their views on less frequent lawn mowing initiatives to promote pollinators in the City.</p> <p>- <u>Update re coyote response presentation at General Committee May 31, 2021:</u> Christy advised that this has become a very contentious issue with a lot of complaints being received, especially from Ward 4. She further advised that she will be reporting to General Committee on a Coyote Mitigation Strategy in the near future, and she will share that information with the Committee as soon as a date has been finalized. The Strategy includes promoting co-existing, rather than lethal interjection of any kind, different interactions with coyotes, etc.</p> <p>Christy spoke about the two unfortunate incidents when two small dogs were killed during coyote interactions; one of the dogs was off leash and the other was on an extended leash and was quite far away from its owner. She further advised that By-law Officers continue to patrol, educate the</p>	
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	<p>residents and are issuing tickets to residents who are in violation of Animal Control By-laws.</p> <p>Christy will email the Committee the Coyote Mitigation Strategy. She also suggested that Valerie write to General Committee on behalf of the ACC supporting her efforts.</p> <p>The Committee discussed issues related to the discharge of firearms in the City and how it relates to the coyote sightings.</p> <p>The Committee also discussed issues related to residents seeking private animal trappers.</p> <p>Valerie thanked Christy for all her efforts on initiating the Coyote Mitigation Strategy and assured her of support from the Animal Care Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Update re issues at German Mills Meadow:</u> No update on the previously reported issues at German Mills Meadow. 	<p>Christy to email the Coyote Mitigation Strategy to the ACC.</p> <p>Valerie to write to the City in support of regarding the Coyote Mitigation Strategy on behalf of the ACC once Committee has reviewed it.</p>
4. Animal Services Program Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Cat Adoption & Education Centre</u> No update - <u>Shades of Hope Wildlife Centre</u> Christy advised that domestic pigeons were adopted, trained and subsequently released in the wild. 	
5. Communications	None	
6. New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Elections:</u> Consideration of this matter was deferred till the Committee can meet in-person. <p>Valerie asked the members if anyone would be interested in filling in as Interim Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Metrolinx Video on GO Expansion:</u> The Animal Care Committee viewed a short video released by Metrolinx entitled: "<i>Sustainability, Safety & an Electrified Network / GO Expansion</i>", which had been included in Deputy Mayor Hamilton's 	

	<p>newsletter and provided by Valerie for information to the Animal Care Committee.</p> <p>The Committee viewed the video and will continue to monitor Metrolinx's plan as it applies to the City of Markham wildlife. Janet offered to check the Metrolinx website to find out what's going on and will report back to the Committee.</p>	
7. Communications	None.	
8. Date of the Next Meeting	The next Animal Care Committee meeting will be held on October 20, 2021, at 5:30 PM.	
9. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:10 PM.	

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	Meeting Date	Person Responsible	Status
Conduct a breakeven analysis to determine the ideal price of the cookbook	December 16, 2020	Judy Postello	On hold awaiting in person meetings
Pet Licensing Renewal Form	September 22, 2021	Christy to update web page this quarter and include a list of animal services programs in the 2022 renewal notices.	
Joint presentation at an ACC meeting in the fall or winter, by the City's Parks, By-laws and Sustainability Departments.	September 22, 2021	Mary-Jane to contact Parks, By-laws and Sustainability to arrange for a joint presentation to the ACC in the fall or winter months.	
ACC support to the Coyote Mitigation Strategy	September 22, 2021	Valerie to write to the City on behalf of the ACC in support of the Coyote Mitigation Strategy once Committee has reviewed it	
Coyote Mitigation Strategy	September 22, 2021	Christy to email the Coyote Mitigation Strategy to the ACC	