



**Electronic Animal Care Committee
MINUTES
October 20, 2021
ZOOM
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

Members Present

Valerie Burke, Interim Chair
Areez Remtulla
Bernice Royce
Janet Andrews
June Ziola
Vikrum Pain

Regrets

Denielle Duncan
Aviva Harari
Dr. Esther Attard
Judy Postello
Sherry Klein

Guests

David Plant, Manager of Parks

Staff

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

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:35 PM with Valerie Burke in the Chair.	
2. Approval of the September 22, 2021 Animal Care Committee Meeting Minutes	Moved by Janet Andrews Seconded by Bernice Royce That the minutes of the September 22, 2021 Animal Care Committee meeting be approved, as presented. Carried	
3. Business Arising from the Minutes	Committee reviewed the list of action items and updated the Action Item Table (view last page of the minute's document for details). - Valerie Burke, Interim Chair informed that Sherry Klein, whose term has ended, has	

	<p>formally resigned. Her resignation will be received by the Committee at the next meeting.</p> <p>Valerie welcomed David Plant and thanked him for attending the meeting to present about the City Pollinator Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Plant, Manager of Parks made a verbal presentation and update on the City's pollinator program. <p>The pollinator program was started in 2016 with the initiation of the milkweed nursery at the Milne Dam. This is a very important part of the City's horticulture, City programs and natural stewardship of land programs. The program is still in a learning curve with the help of some subject-matter experts.</p> <p>David advised that not every area that requires planting should be planted as a pollinator garden. Like good landscape plantings, pollinators have their place, and they thrive in certain locations – they are effective in some locations and are very ineffective in others. There has to be an appealing balance between function and form in municipal properties both parkland and value land, and Civic facilities.</p> <p>David shared a great success story with respect to the plantings in the Pomona Mills Park. He also shared some learning opportunities in pollinator gardens that have not thrived, which have been converted to another style of planting.</p> <p>David spoke at length on the David Suzuki Foundation partnership with the City. He advised that the Pomona Mills Park and Milne Dam are the City's most substantial pollinator gardens covering approximately a third of an acre. He also advised of some work in Campbell Park, Swan Lake Park, and plans for additional plantings in 2022 at the Gordon Weeden Park and Campbell Park.</p> <p>Staff is exploring planting opportunities for value lands in an effort to create a pollinator</p>	
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	<p>corridor through the City. David advised of some demonstration gardens with signage at the Civic Centre so visitors will be able to see some very aesthetically pleasing landscape perennials that can be used as effective pollinators in residential landscape plans.</p> <p>David suggested that the Animal Care Committee can help through stewardship opportunities by bringing together interested parties to do the plantings and offer after-care services for mulching areas that can retain water and help the plants thrive.</p> <p>Valerie advised that the pollinator garden at the Thornhill Seniors Centre is thriving very well, as well as the milkweed in front of the Thornhill Community Centre.</p> <p>Janet suggested that the Committee could help promoting these efforts by handing out literature at the various community festivals, farmers markets and other events.</p> <p>David advised of an ongoing communication strategy on the LDD moth, and staff have received overwhelming feedback from the community on these efforts. The homegrown videos put up on the City's webpage have really resonated with the residents. Staff is also making good use of social media through the Corporate Communications department in promoting these activities.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Janet, David advised that staff are not involved with the Metrolinx vegetation program along the GO rail corridor. He further advised that of the tree inventory staff is concerned with, he is not aware of any substantial impact on city trees by the Metrolinx vegetation program.</p> <p>Responding to a question by Valerie on grass cutting on city owned lands, David advised that changes have been made in the Operations Department with the addition of more staff and improvement in the cutting cycles. He further advised that naturalized areas are not mowed often thus promoting dandelions as city-wide pollinators.</p>	
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	<p>Moved by Bernice Royce Seconded by June Ziola</p> <p>That the verbal presentation by David Plant, Manager of Parks on the City's pollinator program be received.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Update re revising inconsistencies on website – animal licensing, services and ACC description:</u> Christy advised that the website has been revised. Christy shared her screen so the members could view the revisions to the Animal Services webpage. The actual Renewal Form still needs revision as some verbiage may need to be updated. The new Form states Animal Care Services. <p>Responding to a question from June with respect to the Renewal Form, Christy advised that this portion of the webpage will need some more time to be revised.</p> <p>Christy advised that the description of the Committee is in the Terms of Reference listed on the Advisory Committee page. She further advised that the Clerks department will need to be contacted for this. Valerie agreed to contact Clerks Office.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Areez, Christy speculated that there may be an issue with the Committee pages on the Markham website when a link is clicked from google search. Committee pages, as well as the Animal Care committee page, do not appear to be displaying correctly when the link is clicked from google search. Christy agreed to alert the web developers responsible.</p>	<p>Valerie to contact Clerks Office</p> <p>Cristy to alert web developers on the issue with committee pages</p>
4. Animal Services Program Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Cat Adoption & Education Centre</u> Christy advised that the CAEC has opened on Monday, October 18, 2021. The OSPCA is currently doing appointment-based adoptions only. Proper screenings, 	

	<p>interviews and checks are still being done via Zoom, using curbside pickups. Christy further advised that out of the 9 cats on Monday, October 18, 2021, only 2 are now left for adoption. She also advised that there are a number of kitten litters ready to go that are not quite of adoptable age yet.</p> <p>The CAEC is ready to conduct some more community outreach and education programs. The virtual Future-Vet program has been sold out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Shades of Hope Wildlife Centre</u> Christy advised that the Wildlife Rehabilitation Services Contract will be up for renewal at the end of 2021. She further advised that she is preparing to release a RFP for the contract. The SoH has offered a tour of their facility for the ACC, however, in view of the soon to be released RFP, it may be advisable to wait till the contract is awarded. <p>Responding to a question, Christy advised that there are other animal services providers that may respond to the RFP. She explained that the awarding of the contract is done through the Purchasing Department by a staff advisory committee that reviews all submissions.</p>	
5. Communications	None	
6. New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>New Members:</u> Valerie advised that the City has advertised and is in the process of appointing new members to the Animal Care Committee. Valerie further advised that term of two members expired in 2019 and two in 2020. She requested the members whose terms have expired to stay on until new members were appointed by Council. - <u>Interim Chair:</u> Valerie advised that Areez Remtulla has shown interest in the Interim Chair's position. <p>Janet thanked Areez and offered her help in whatever way possible. She further advised</p>	

	<p>that since she has been on the Committee, the Chair has always been alternating between Valerie, Denielle, and herself.</p> <p>Areez advised that it will be a learning experience for him as he will be navigating through unknown areas, and he is looking forward to the opportunity.</p> <p>- <u>Update on coyote sightings:</u> Christy advised that her report on the Coyote issue has been rescheduled for consideration at the November 15, 2021 General Committee meeting. She further advised that she has reached out to every municipality in Ontario and has learnt a lot in the process.</p> <p>Christy advised that her report is currently being reviewed by senior staff and she will share the report with the Committee soon thereafter.</p> <p>Christy advised that this is a very contentious issue and encouraged the Committee members to attend the General Committee meeting on November 15, 2021 and either make deputations or send in written submissions on the matter. She advised that many residents from the Wards experiencing coyote sightings are expected to attend the meeting to voice their opinions.</p> <p>Christy advised that Lesley Sampson, Founding Executive Director of Coyote Watch Canada has been instrumental in helping with the report. She has also reached out to an individual in California who has done extensive research on the matter who has also been a great source of information.</p> <p>Christy is also trying to find out if there is any university in the province or in Canada studying the effects of urban sprawl on wildlife, in particular coyotes.</p> <p>Valerie advised that the Committee will make a written submission for the</p>	
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	<p>November 15, 2021 General Committee meeting after reviewing Christy's report. She encouraged members to make deputations at the meeting.</p> <p>Janet requested Christy to confirm when her report will be considered at General Committee as she would like to register to make a deputation at the meeting.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Bernice, Christy suggested that members review the Coyote Watch Canada's website for more information on the matter and also review the module that she distributed to the Committee.</p> <p>Christy advised that since the City has enhanced its coyote watch program, there is a lot of interest from the community, especially Wards 4 and 5, which have indicated the highest call volume. Direct and indirect feeding of wildlife has increased coyote sightings in the community.</p> <p>Valerie thanked Christy on behalf of the Committee for her extensive work on this matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>GO Expansion Vegetation Management and Tree Compensation Program:</u> Janet Andrews advised that she has subscribed to the GO Expansion Vegetation Management and Tree Compensation Program and has downloaded the report, which is about 157 pages, and is happy to share the document and updates on the program with the Committee members. - <u>Agenda items for next meeting:</u> Valerie encouraged the members to send her items to be included on the agenda for the November ACC meeting. 	<p>Christy to advise Committee when her report will be considered by General Committee</p>
7. Communications	None.	
8. Date of the Next Meeting	The next Animal Care Committee meeting will be held on November 17, 2021, at 5:30 PM.	

9. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 6:55 PM.	
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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 & October, 2021	Christy to update web page this quarter and include a list of animal services programs in the 2022 renewal notices.	Further revisions are necessary.
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	
ACC description on City website	October 20, 2021	Valerie to contact Clerks	
Coyote response matter	October 20, 2021	Christy to advise the Committee when her report on the subject matter will be considered by General Committee	
Committee pages on Markham website	October 20, 2021	Cristy to alert web developers on the issue with committee pages	