



City of Markham Coyote Response

Presentation to General Committee

May 31st, 2021

Christy Lehman, Animal Care Supervisor



Presentation Overview

- Legislative Framework in Ontario
- City of Markham Responsibilities
- Current Situation
- City's Response To-date
- Future Action Proposal Plan
- Coyote Watch Canada Introduction





Legislative Framework in Ontario

- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act
- Removal/relocation of wildlife further than 1 kilometer is illegal
- Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNRF)
- Delegated Authority from the MNRF
- Lethal interjection is permitted where menacing coyotes are found - no municipality in the GTHA has done this



Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry



City of Markham Responsibilities

- Delegated authority from the MNRF to monitor coyotes.
- Provide education/public outreach.
- Monitor coyote behavior.
- Intervene **ONLY** where necessary due to immediate threat--aligns with Greenprint Plan to achieve an environmentally, economically, socially and culturally vibrant and sustainable community.





Current Situation

- City is aware of following 4 active locations in Markham:
 - 16th Avenue & Alfred Patterson
 - Markham District High School
 - Swan Lake
 - John Street (Yonge Street to 404)
- City has received approximately 21 calls on the above locations.
- Markham Animal Care Officers (ACOs) are currently patrolling each area to promote responsible pet ownership & monitor coyote behavior.
- ACOs have noted off leash dog concerns as well as feeding of wildlife in the above locations & have issued approximately 45 Notice of Violations to people for these violations.



City's Response To-Date

- Website updated to include dedicated wildlife section.
- Social Media Campaign launched in Feb. 2021.
- Radio Interview (by Christy Lehman) in Feb. 2021
- Newspaper Interview (by Christy Lehman) Feb. 2021.
- Councillor Newsletter information provided for circulation
- Signage in the areas of concern.
- ACOs conduct regular patrols of the area - educating residents on the existence of coyotes in the area as well as responsible pet ownership.





Future Action Proposal

- Continue to enforce Animal Service By-law—zero tolerance approach
 - Feeding of wildlife prohibited
 - Off leash dogs prohibited
 - Leash length (2 metre maximum)
- Continue social media efforts.
- Increase newspaper awareness.
- Continue to provide information for inclusion in all Councillor Newsletters.





Coyote Watch Canada

- Coyote Watch Canada is an all-volunteer Not-For-Profit community-based, wildlife organization that advocates positive human-wildlife experiences with a focus on canids. Effective community outreach is achieved through education, research, mediation, intervention, & conflict resolution.



**General Committee
May 31, 2021
Extract**

To: Animal Care Supervisor (C. Lehman)
File

7.1 CITY OF MARKHAM COYOTE RESPONSE PRESENTATION (2.8)

Christy Lehman, Supervisor, Animal Care, addressed the Committee and provided a presentation entitled, City of Markham Coyote Response, which outlined the provincial legislative framework, the City's responsibilities, current status of the four known active coyote locations, and the proposed action plan.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the presentation entitled "City of Markham Coyote Response", be received.

Carried

**General Committee
May 31, 2021
Extract**

To: File

7.2 PRESENTATION FROM COYOTE WATCH CANADA (2.8)

Leslie Sampson, Founding Executive Director, Coyote Watch Canada, addressed the Committee and delivered a presentation which provided an overview of Coyote Canada community initiatives. She indicated that Coyote Canada supports communities, citizens and government agencies with non-lethal mitigation and education programs for community co-existence with coyotes.

The Committee heard from the following deputants in relation to this item:

Stephen Ames addressed the Committee to express concerns with coyotes living in the area, and made an inquiry into how to react during a direct encounter.

Hershi Rubinoff, addressed the Committee to express concerns with coyotes living in the area, their change in behaviour, increased coyote encounters and the lack of public adherence to existing rules causing concerns for overall safety.

Evelyn O'Shaughnessy, addressed the Committee to express her concerns with coyotes living in the area.

The Committee discussed the following in relation to the presentation and resident concerns:

- The location of known coyote families in the area;
- The relocation of coyotes from ravine and forested areas to residential areas;
- Recent activities such as picture taking and feeding of coyotes by members of the public;
- Concerns with public safety for residents, their children and their pets;
- Consideration for the implementation of signage and fencing to deter public encounters;
- Increased communication to residents in the form of a letter mail out to advise of the coyote issue and provide tips on how to react to and deter direct encounters;
- The initiation of proactive initiatives to focus on the issue of feeding wildlife and the risks associated with it;

- Confirmation that the maximum fine is incorporated and enforced in the City's by-law that prohibits the feeding of animals;
- Measures to address and decrease the number of coyote encounters;
- Information on the family dynamics of coyotes from pups to adults;
- Consideration to relocate coyote pups a kilometer away from the area; and,
- Suggestions for implementation of natural deterrents by property owners.

Lesley Sampson provided information on ways to encourage coyotes to stay within certain areas, how to react during a coyote encounter, how to deter people from interacting with them and advocated for regular property maintenance to discourage coyote dens in addition to never leaving children or pets alone. She noted that the City currently has a good program and suggested that when there are sightings that residents try to safely take a photograph to share with City staff for assessment and identification purposes.

The Committee requested that staff report back with information on a coyote management protocol to address the issue and resident concerns.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. **That the Coyote Watch Presentation be received; and,**
2. **That the deputations from Stephen Ames, Hershi Rubinoff, and Evelyn Shaughnessy be received; and,**
3. **That the written communications from Valerie Burke, Bernice Froyce, and Esther Attard be received; and,**
4. **That staff report back at a future General Committee meeting on a coyote management protocol that includes:**
 - a. **temporary signage;**
 - b. **temporary fencing;**
 - c. **public notification; and,**
 - d. **public communications; and further,**
5. **That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.**

Carried