



**Electronic Animal Care Committee  
MINUTES  
June 15, 2022  
ZOOM  
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

**Members Present**

Areez Remtulla, Chair  
Valerie Burke, Vice Chair  
Aviva Harari  
Bernice Royce  
Cathy McKnight  
Cindy Beneteau  
Filandro Fernandes  
Gloria Wong  
Janet Andrews  
June Ziola  
Sonia Chow  
Serene Chin

**Regrets**

Dr. Esther Attard  
Nithucha Chandran  
Christy Lehman, Animal Care Supervisor

**Staff**

John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:38 PM with Areez Remtulla in the Chair.	
<b>2. Approval of the May 18, 2022, Animal Care Committee Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>Moved by Janet Andrews Seconded by Valerie Burke</b>  <b>That the minutes of the May 18, 2022, Animal Care Committee meeting be approved, as presented.</b>  <b>Carried</b>	
<b>3. Welcome new members</b>	Areez Remtulla, Chair welcomed the new Council appointed members to the Animal Care Committee and gave a brief overview of the mandate and the workings of the Committee. He	



	<p>that the incident took place a couple of months ago, the fox family has probably moved on by now. Responding to a question from the Chair, Janet suggested that this action item could be deleted from the outstanding action items list, because at this point in time this could be considered a non-issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Review of Action Items</u></li> </ul> <p>The Committee reviewed the list of action items and updated the Action Item Table (please see last page of the minutes document for details).</p>	
<b>5. Animal Services Program Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Cat Adoption &amp; Education Centre</u> For the benefit of the new members, Areez advised that Christy usually provides an update on this item. He further advised that he will continue to make efforts to organize a day trip for the Committee members to the CAEC.</li> <li>- <u>Shades of Hope Wildlife Centre</u> No update. Areez to follow up on a day trip to the SOH.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Areez to try to organize a day trip to the CAEC.</b></p> <p><b>Areez to follow up</b></p>
<b>6. Communications</b>	None	
<b>7. Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Unionville Festival</u></li> </ul> <p>Valerie thanked the members who volunteered to help at the June 4, 2022, Unionville Festival, especially Cathy McKnight who put in a lot of effort in coordinating the participation of the members.</p> <p>Aviva thought the event went well and it was a big improvement to not have items for sale but rather to really focus on distributing information. She brought her pet dog along as an attraction that helped draw people to the booth. Aviva encouraged members to bring their pets along for the Unionville Festival as well, which would be very helpful in attracting people to come to the booth. In her opinion, it was a very successful public outreach event.</p>	<p><b>Areez to follow-up with Cathy on emailing members to volunteer for the Unionville Festival event.</b></p>

	<p>Janet advised that the space allotted to the Committee was not ideal and suggested that next time the Committee should consider paying to get a spot right on Main Street that would generate more interaction with visitors to the event. She advised that the people she talked to loved the brochures on wildlife. Janet and Cathy spoke to members of a ratepayers association who promised to include some of the information from the wildlife brochures in their ratepayer association's newsletter, which will help in wildlife information outreach in the community. Janet anticipates a lot of visitors at the Markham Music Festival as the spot allocated for the booth in the Farmer's Market is a very popular location.</p> <p>Bernice complemented Aviva's pet dog who was a very effective bait for attracting visitors to the booth. She also agreed that not having items for sale made a very big difference. Visitors spent more time at the booth and had questions that were all animal related. In her opinion, there was a great interest in the CAEC from people who were looking for pets. Having pictures of adoptable pets was much more humane than actually having the animals there. Just talking to the people and handing out the brochures was very effective.</p> <p>Valerie Burke, Vice Chair was of the opinion that the biggest draw was the board with pictures of adoptable animals on display at the event. She suggested a short video about the Animal Care Committee and the work the Committee does would be very helpful at such events. She got the inquiries of people who wanted to volunteer at the CAEC.</p> <p>Valerie also was of the opinion that the ACC's banner should not contain the current pictures of a chameleon and an exotic bird. She thinks it would be appropriate to change the banner to more reflect the work that the ACC does for wildlife related matters.</p>	
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	<p>Areez Remtulla, Chair agreed with Valerie's suggestion that such animals should not be on the ACC banner.</p> <p>Aviva advised that many visitors to the booth inquired about their kids volunteering, so she was wondering if it would be appropriate to ask some high school kids to help set up the booth and other materials for the event.</p> <p>The discussed the question of who would sign off on the high school children's' volunteer hours. Aviva suggested any Committee member could sign off as it is not a formal requirement. She also suggested that utilizing a small budget, the Committee could explore the possibility of having a few T-shirts printed for volunteers along the lines of "Markham Animal Care Committee Student Volunteer". The student volunteers could also walk through the event grounds distributing brochures and other literature, which could increase the Committee's visibility at the event.</p> <p>- <u>Markham Music Festival</u></p> <p>June Ziola complimented Cathy McKnight on her coordination of the Unionville Festival event. She advised that the Markham Music Festival starts at 9:00 a.m. and setup will be at 8:00 a.m. Janet, Cathy and June have signed up for setup. Cathy has everything that is required. The 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. shift will be managed by Janet, Cathy and June. Only two have volunteered for the 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. shift. June will be the only volunteer between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Janet advised that the Farmers Market usually shuts down at 1:00 p.m. She further advised that the Farmers Market organizers are okay if the ACC wants to shut down at the same time. Responding to a question from Areez, Janet advised that leaving at 2:30 p.m. would not be an issue.</p> <p>Areez agreed to help in the shut down at 2:30 p.m. June thanked all the volunteers for</p>	
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	<p>signing up on the Google sign up sheet prepared by Cathy.</p> <p>Janet Andrews advised that the Markham Farmers Market has student volunteers who have helped the ACC set up the tent in previous years. She further advised that in the past, two volunteers from the ACC at the booth has worked well, three would be ideal.</p> <p>With respect to questions about bringing adoptable dogs to the event, Aviva cautioned about potential liability issues. She also advised about being cognizant of the dog's temperament when taking them to such events, especially if the dog reacts negatively to a kid that is playing with the dog. Aviva further advised that she has personal liability insurance in case her dog bites someone.</p> <p>Areez suggested checking with Christy before anyone plans on bringing their pets to future events, especially if they are rescues or adoptable pets.</p> <p>Valerie Burke, Vice Chair agreed with Areez and Aviva with respect to bringing pets to events. As an advisory committee to a municipality, rules of the municipality need to be adhered to.</p>	
<b>8. New Business</b>	There were no items of New Business	
<b>9. Date of the Next Meeting</b>	The next Animal Care Committee meeting will be held on September 21, 2022, at 5:30 PM.	
<b>10. Adjournment</b>	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 6:50 PM.	

### **ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
Conduct a breakeven analysis to determine the ideal price of the cookbook	December 16, 2020	June Ziola	On hold awaiting in person meetings
Follow up on the status of a committee motion requesting General	January 19, 2022	Valerie Burke	In process

Action Item	Meeting Date	Person Responsible	Status
Committee to ask staff to update bird-friendly buildings to CSA standards			
Indigenous Teaching	February 16, 2022	Christy to contact the Diversity Specialist for a presentation at a future ACC meeting.	In process
Road Trip to Shades of Hope	February 16, 2022	Areez to email members to contact Christy if they are interested in a road trip to the SOH	In process
2023 Proclamation Request dates	March 16, 2022	T B D	To be considered at the November 2022 meeting
Markham Village Music Festival (June 17-28, 2022)	April 20, 2022	Cathy to follow up with the Markham Music Festival event organizers for details of the event	Janet booked and paid for space. Completed
Christmas parades event	April 20, 2022	Areez to email details of Christmas parades to the members for their review and consideration.	In progress
Presentation materials and related documents for new members	June 15, 2022	Janet to forward presentation and related documents to new members	
Terms of Reference for new Committee members	June 15, 2022	Areez to email a copy of the ToR to the new members	
Day trip to the CAEC	June 15, 2022	Areez to try and organize	
Day trip to the SOH	June 15, 2022	Areez to follow up	