



Animal Care Committee

MINUTES

**June 20, 2018
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

Members

Denielle Duncan, Chair
Janet Andrews, Vice-Chair
Dr. Esther Attard
Councillor Valerie Burke
Julie Sook-Man Chan
Aviva Harari
Sherry Klein
Rhiannon Lane
Michelle Lustri
Judy Postello

Regrets

Shirley Lesch

Staff

Chris Alexander, Acting Manager, By-law & Regulatory Services
Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services
John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)

Guests and Members of the Public

None

Call to Order: The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:40 p.m. on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, with Denielle Duncan, Chair presiding as Chair.

Item	Discussion	Action
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<p>1. Approval of the May 16, 2018 Animal Care Committee meeting minutes</p>	<p>Moved by: Janet Andrews, Vice Chair Seconded by: Dr. Esther Attard</p> <p>That the minutes of the May 16, 2018 Animal Care Committee meeting be approved, as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
<p>2. Business arising from the Minutes</p>	<p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services suggested that it would be a good idea to have the Christmas Bazaar at the Thornhill Community Centre in conjunction with the animal photos with Santa event.</p> <p>With respect to posting of wildlife webinars and videos on the City's website, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that this matter has been referred to the City's Corporate Communications Department. She further advised that it is up to the presenter whether they would agree to such requests. Christy further advised that she is currently working on posting the wildlife brochures prepared by the Animal Care Committee on to the City's website.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair advised that she received a very positive response to her thank you letter to the Neighbours of Old Thornhill Village Magazine recognizing their support of the Cat Adoption and Education Centre.</p>	<p>Christy Lehman to obtain approval from the Community Centre.</p>
<p>3. Animal Control Program Update</p>	<p>a. <u>Cat Adoption & Education Centre</u></p> <p>No update.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that the Centre has approximately 520 adoptions to date.</p> <p>b. <u>Barn Cat Program</u></p> <p>No update.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that one of the recommendations in the proposed amendments to the Animal Care & Control By-law, is that the City formally recognize the TNR program for Feral Cats.</p>	

	<p>c. <u>By-law Review</u></p> <p>Mr. Chris Alexander, Acting Manager, By-law & Regulatory Services delivered a PowerPoint presentation providing an update on the Animal Services By-law. Mr. Alexander advised that he made the same presentation at General Committee on Monday, June 18, 2018. He further advised that the current By-law is outdated (13 years old) and staff are suggesting that a number of administrative and prosecutorial amendments are required.</p> <p>Staff are also suggesting that a provision be added to license and regulate pet stores within the City of Markham.</p> <p>Mr. Alexander advised that currently the cities of Toronto and Mississauga are the only two Ontario municipalities that license pet stores. Such licenses would need renewals every year. The intent is to reduce the number of animals sourced from “puppy mills” while providing recognized shelters and rescues with an opportunity to re-home their animals.</p> <p>Mr. Alexander advised that a draft Animal Protection and Services By-law will be presented for Council’s consideration at the June 26, 2018 Council meeting.</p> <p>Committee members were encouraged to write to Council supporting the proposed amendments to the Animal Control By-law. Denielle Duncan, Chair agreed to send a written communication advising Council that the Animal Care Committee has reviewed and supports the proposed amendments to the Animal Control By-law.</p> <p>Responding to a question, Mr. Alexander advised that a potential update to the By-law on the sale of small animals will be presented for Council’s consideration in the fall of 2018.</p> <p>The Committee suggested wildlife education programs be provided for schools by either Shades of Hope or the OSPCA. The children could, in turn, educate their parents on how to live harmoniously with wildlife.</p>	<p>Denielle to send written communication to Council on behalf of the Committee supporting proposed amendments to the Animal Control By-law.</p>
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	<p>The Committee discussed the matter of signage prohibiting the feeding of wildlife in languages other than English. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that this matter would be best dealt with by the Operations Department.</p> <p>The Committee discussed issues with respect to small animals from rescues, that are subsequently let go when they grow and the owners find them unmanageable or unwanted. The Committee also discussed a recent shipment of two kinds of hamsters to a PetSmart store; a majority of the hamsters were dead at the time of delivery.</p> <p>Mr. Alexander advised that staff could investigate such incidences in an effort to alleviate similar occurrences going forward.</p> <p>With respect to the matter of owning hedgehogs, Mr. Alexander advised that if a resident applies to the City for an exemption in order to own a hedgehog, Animal Control Services will have to prepare a report for Council's consideration of such a request for a By-law exemption.</p> <p>Councillor Valerie Burke thanked Chris Alexander and Christy Lehman for their hard work in reviewing and preparing proposed changes to the Animal Control By-law.</p> <p>Responding to a suggestion by a member whether Councillors could include an article on wildlife in their Councillors' Newsletters, Councillor Burke advised that no Councillors' newsletters are allowed from May 1 until after the conclusion of the municipal elections in October.</p> <p>Responding to a question about the shooting of wildlife with pellet guns, Mr. Alexander advised that such matters are governed by the "Discharge of Firearms" By-law.</p>	
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	<p>Moved by: Janet Andrews, Vice Chair Seconded by: Rhiannon Lane</p> <p>1) That the presentation by Mr. Chris Alexander, Acting Manager, By-law & Regulatory Services, on the Animal Care & Control By-law update be received; and</p> <p>2) That the Animal Care Committee supports the proposed amendments to the Animal Protection & Services By-law.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
4. Events	<p>a. <u>Fund Raising</u></p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair handed over the following funds to Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services to be handed over to the Clerks Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$51 from the Earth Day event held on April 21. ➤ \$95.85 from the Unionville Festival held on June 2-3. ➤ \$104 from the Markham Music Festival held on June 15-16. ➤ \$1,015.25 from Sidewalk Sale held on June 9. <p>b. <u>Events scheduled for the remainder of the year</u></p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair reminded the Committee of the Doggy Day event scheduled to be held on July 29th at the Unionville Stiver Mill Farmer's Market.</p> <p>Julie Sook-Man Chan advised that a 5K walk is being organized by her rescue group on September 29, which will include a Bake Sale and Sidewalk Sale.</p>	
5. New Business	None	
6. Date of next meeting	Wednesday, September 19, 2018	
7. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.	