



Animal Care Committee

MINUTES

**September 19, 2018
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

<u>Members</u> Denielle Duncan, Chair Janet Andrews, Vice-Chair Dr. Esther Attard Councillor Valerie Burke Julie Sook-Man Chan Rhiannon Lane Shirley Lesch Michelle Lustri Judy Postello	<u>Regrets</u> Aviva Harari Sherry Klein
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<u>Staff</u> Chris Alexander, Supervisor Licensing & Standards Christy Lehman, Licensing & Animal Services Coordinator John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)
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<u>Guests and Members of the Public</u> Terri Daniels

Call to Order: The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:37 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, with Denielle Duncan, Chair presiding as Chair.

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Approval of the June 20, 2018, Animal Care Committee meeting minutes	Moved by: Janet Andrews, Vice Chair Seconded by: Rhiannon Lane That the minutes of the June 20, 2018 Animal Care Committee meeting be approved, as presented. CARRIED	

<p>2. Business arising from the Minutes</p>	<p>Christy Lehman, Licensing & Animal Services Coordinator advised that there is no update on the posting of wildlife education webinars or YouTube videos on the City of Markham's website.</p> <p>Chris Alexander, Supervisor Licensing & Standards advised that the biggest challenge would be to get good quality audio and video recordings. He further advised that if recordings were provided, staff would be able to post them on the City's website.</p> <p>Julie Sook-Man Chan advised that videos recorded on regular cameras can be uploaded to YouTube. A free YouTube channel can be created and the url can be copied and pasted on the City's Facebook page.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Animal & Licensing Services Coordinator advised that the City's Facebook page could be utilized for this purpose. Christy agreed to contact Corporate Communications in this regard.</p> <p>Christy and Chris advised that there was no update on the timing of the upgrade of the City's website.</p> <p>Christy Lehman advised that the City has no active TNR programs at this time. The City currently bears the expenses for spaying, neutering and vaccinating cats that are trapped and sent to the OSPCA.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the issue of installing signage in City parks advising the public that feeding of wildlife is prohibited, in languages other than English. Chris Alexander, advised that he will contact the Parks staff in this regard. Denielle Duncan suggested the signs include the reason why.</p> <p>Moved by: Janet Andrews, Vice Chair Seconded by: Rhiannon Lane</p> <p>That Council direct staff to install symbolic signs in strategic locations in City parks advising the public that the feeding of wildlife is prohibited. CARRIED</p>	<p>Christy to contact Corp. Comms. with respect to posting wildlife videos, webinars, etc. on the City's Facebook page.</p> <p>Chris Alexander to contact Parks re signage "feeding of wildlife prohibited"</p>
<p>3. Animal Control Program Update</p>	<p>a. <u>Cat Adoption & Education Centre</u></p>	

	<p>Chris Alexander advised that the 3-year CAEC contract with the OSPCA is up for renewal this year.</p> <p>Christy Lehman advised that the Centre has a new Coordinator effective August of this year, who has proposed a lot of great new ideas for the Centre.</p> <p>The Centre has registered 112 adoptions this year, with a grand total of 542 adoptions since the Centre opened.</p> <p>Christy advised that the Centre will be getting new furniture, and some of the existing equipment will be re-arranged soon.</p> <p>Shirley Lesch thanked Dr. Esther Attard for extending timely help to her friend in a very difficult situation with her pet cat.</p> <p>b. <u>Barn Cat Program</u></p> <p>Christy Lehman advised that she will be working with Monika Sudds, who handles the TNR program for all of Ontario for the OSPCA. Monika proposes to implement a barn cat program for the OSPCA, to be known as the "working cats program".</p> <p>Terri Daniels suggested that inspections and follow-up be included in the working cats program.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan advised of an email she received about a colony of stray cats from a lumber yard in an industrial area. She further advised that a rescue group is willing to assume responsibility for the colony if the City of Markham would agree to bear the cost of vaccination, spaying and neutering of the strays.</p> <p>Chris Alexander advised Denielle to forward this information to Animal Services and to coordinate with Christy on this matter.</p> <p>c. <u>By-law Review</u></p> <p>Chris Alexander advised that the necessary amendments to the by-law will be reviewed after the elections (in November 2018) before the current</p>	<p>Denielle and Christy to coordinate on the matter of the stray cat colony in an industrial area.</p> <p>Chris to provide draft Animal Care & Control by-law for ACC review at October meeting.</p>
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	<p>Council is dissolved and the new Council is in place. He is hoping to have a draft version of the by-law for review by the Animal Care Committee at its October 2018 meeting.</p> <p>Responding to a question about pet stores in Markham, Chris advised that the new by-law will have provisions to license stores selling domestic pets like cats, dogs and small animals. These stores will be required to source their animals from rescue groups and/or shelters. Stores only selling pet supplies and pet food will not require a license.</p> <p>Janet Andrews suggested that a list of rescues that have small animals be created to give to pet stores selling small animals. Denielle agreed to volunteer a couple of committee members to help prepare such a list.</p> <p>Responding to a question with respect to a reptile rescue in Markham, Chris advised that there could be exemptions in the by-law for prohibited animals. He is attending a wildlife workshop on October 5th, and is hoping to bring back some ideas from there.</p>	<p>Denielle to suggest a couple of committee members to prepare a list of pet rescues.</p>
4. Events	<p>a. <u>Fund Raising</u></p> <p>Denielle Duncan advised that not everyone was keen on having the Christmas Sale at the Community Centre as there would be too much work involved in the advertising and pre-event tasks.</p> <p>b. <u>Events scheduled for the remainder of the year</u></p> <p>Denielle Duncan advised that Julie Sook-Man Chan is organizing a Walk-a-thon along with PetValu on September 29. It was agreed that the Animal Care Committee would conduct a sidewalk sale as part of this event to collect funds for the CAEC. A lot of the advertising has already been done by Julie and other groups. Denielle thanked Jinho from PetValu for all his help in this regard.</p>	

	<p>Posters were distributed to committee members for publicizing the event in the community.</p> <p>Chris Alexander will arrange to publicize the event on the City's Social Media platform.</p> <p>Rhiannon advised that the committee is in need of volunteers for the Markham Santa Claus Parade scheduled to be held on November 24, 2018. She will email details to committee members. Rhiannon agreed to sign up for the Markham Santa Claus Parade</p>	<p>Chris to publicize the September 29th Walk-a-thon event on the City's social media platform.</p> <p>Rhiannon to email Christmas Parade details to committee members soliciting volunteers. Rhiannon to sign up for Santa Claus Parade</p>
5. New Business	<p><u>"Slow Down, Animals Crossing" Sign</u></p> <p>The Committee discussed the issue of installing "Slow Down, Animals Crossing" signs in the Alfred Patterson neighbourhood.</p> <p>Christy Lehman advised that there is a lot of ministry regulations involved in installation of such signs, because extensive signage is a cause of distraction to motorists.</p> <p>Councillor Valerie Burke agreed to email appropriate staff about the installation of the "Slow Down, Animals Crossing" signs.</p> <p>Moved by: Janet Andrews, Vice Chair Seconded by: Rhiannon Lane</p> <p>That Council authorize staff to investigate installing appropriate "Slow Down Animals Crossing" signs in strategic locations Citywide. CARRIED</p>	
6. Date of next meeting	Wednesday, October 17, 2018	
7. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.	