



Animal Care Committee

MINUTES
April 18th, 2018
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Members

Councillor Valerie Burke
Denielle Duncan, Chair
Janet Andrews, Vice-Chair
Aviva Harari
Sherry Klein
Judy Postello
Michelle Lustri
Rhiannon Lane
Shirley Lesch

Regrets

Dr. Esther Attard
Julie Sook-Man Chan

Staff

Chris Alexander, Acting Manager, Bylaw and Regulatory Services
Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing and Animal Services
Marco Francisco, Acting Licensing and Animal Services Co-ordinator
Fire Chief, Dave Decker
Deputy Fire Chief, Adam Grant

Guests and Members of the Public

M. Terri Daniels
C. Grecu

Call to Order: The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:35 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18th 2018, With Denielle Duncan, Chair.

Item	Discussion	Action
1. City of Markham Fire Department - Barn	Dave Decker, Fire Chief and Adam Grant, Deputy Fire Chief presented to the Animal Care Committee Farm Fire	

<p>Fires</p>	<p>Safety, It was noted the following concerns for awareness:</p> <p>Large amount of animal loss, Difficult to patrol less rural areas, Education in simple “Farm Fire Safety”, Visible hazards overall with farms.</p> <p>Fire Program to educate and promote change in behavior’s and interactions with Farms.</p> <p>Deputy Chief Grant worked with staff to create and a “Farm Fire Safety Package.” Identified the gaps and use the National program to create a clean and clear new model. <u>Straight Forward Messaging: Property Protection.</u></p> <p>Trends: Leading Cause of fire is neglect of people.</p> <p>Causes: Old Dry Wood, Old Appliances, and Farm Equipment, Old Feed, Unkempt Hay,</p> <p>Outside: Farm buildings are limited on alert devices.</p> <p>Focus: Message to people perspectives on safety.</p> <p>It was noted that the program to be put in place will address the following: 1st is Fire Prevention, Response and Escape Plan, Overall Risk Assessment and Elective Inspections, Maintain in Good Repair, Updated Fire Extinguishers.</p> <p>It was noted the program is to launch in October 2018, Audit of all farms in Markham, meet with all owners and educate, prevention works to fit all unique farm properties, as a result helps build a synergy with the Animal Care Committee.</p> <p>It was noted the following challenges in program:</p> <p>Delay: people trying to put out the fire themselves before calling the Fire Dept.</p> <p>Fire Chief advised access to the property is very important, Preparation is the key. See Smoke give us a call, do not hesitate, Barn is like a cardboard box. Need to enforce as well rules around open fire, burning.</p> <p>Animal Care Committee Question Asked, is Open burning allowed in the City of Markham?</p> <p>Fire Chief: Yes, by permit only. Open burning leads to grass fire and quire costly to the owner. Permit cost is only</p>	<p>Animal Care Committee to help hand out information and launch in October.</p>
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	<p>\$50.</p> <p>Animal Care Committee Question Asked, Is there a cost to the public to create a fire plan with the Markham Fire?</p> <p>Fire Deputy Chief: No cost to residential, cost to commercial properties. Cheaper to the City overall for a free inspection than an actual barn fire.</p> <p>Animal Care Committee Question Asked, can smoke detectors be installed in the barns?</p> <p>Fire Chief: Not effective due to outdoor elements. Outdoor cameras work to protect livestock. There is always going to be a fear of shame or neglect from owners calling the fire department or pulling an alarm. Most cases fires are started by owners through neglect in cigarettes, candles or incents.</p> <p>Fire Deputy Chief: Education and Inspections are best cost effective way to prevent barn fires, effective alternatives like sprinkler system can also effective but are quite costly.</p> <p>Fire Chief: Travel time to respond to a fire is 4 minutes for Residential and 8 minutes for rural residential. Greater success to fight the fire if you immediately call the fire department. Dump as much water on the barn as quickly as possible to put it out. Foam solution included in water to reduce surface tension of water. Livestock are to be removed first when possible.</p> <p>Deputy Fire Chief: Concluded that working together to improve working relationships. Forward any future concerns to Councillor Burke.</p>	<p>Animal Care Committee requested that the fire plans information be included in the information to be handed out.</p> <p>Animal Care Committee requested that response times to be included in the information to be handed out.</p>
<p>2. City of Markham By-Law Department – Wildlife Inventory Report.</p>	<p>Chris Alexander Acting Manager of By-Law Department and Christy Lehman Acting Supervisor By-Law licensing.</p> <p>Overview, and Background of the overall Report. Ecological, Economic, Social, Cultural Values and Principals Everyone is Responsible. Outreach and Education as well.</p> <p>Animal Care Committee Question Asked, Principals of the report are Department driven or Council Approved?</p>	

	<p>Christy Lehman: Report has gone to Council, overall guiding principals have been accepted.</p> <p>It was noted that the report also included Animal Services and what we do, recognized as well in the province for the Animal Care Committee and the Cat Adoption Centre.</p> <p>Continued Improvement for Public Education, eg: Coyotes Seminar, Signage. Protection of Habitats and Area Rehabilitation. Increase green space, support the David Suzuki Foundation. Planning and Urban design. Maintain a Wildlife Inventory.</p> <p>It was noted that Humans/Wildlife/Habitat/ “be the leader” Overall Comprehensive wildlife management approach.</p> <p>Councillor Burke noted, we didn’t have a report, and this is the most important 1st step in a Biodiversity strategy, proud of the progress so far, more to do.</p> <p>Chris Alexander noted, Rouge Valley Park so close to us is a good place to start.</p> <p>Animal Care Committee noted that co-op students and grad students can help with the leg work; it’s an option to explore.</p> <p>Councillor Burke noted, plant life must also be included in the Biodiversity plan with climate change, and we need to be the most biodiversity city.</p> <p>Animal Care Committee noted how important public education and events are.</p> <p>Christy Lehman noted how important public education is such as educating the public not to feed wildlife and the proper strategies to store outside garbage etc.</p> <p>Councillor Burke noted, Education is Key.</p> <p>Chris Alexander noted, Animal Education Officer, schools, public meetings overall to take the message to the public.</p> <p>Animal Care Committee Question asked, Has there been a reduction the budget for Animal Services?</p>	<p>Animal Care Committee identified the need to include and use other departments in the City to assist. Also to include wildlife identification kits in the public school system, building better relationships and education with the school system.</p>
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3. Animal Care Committee -Events	<p>Animal Care Committee noted that the online license renewal application has been figured out and Christy confirmed. With regards to t-shirts, and possible Christmas Bazaar at the community center Christy still needs to confirm approval.</p> <p>Christy presented a thank you certificate from the Mayor to the Animal Care Committee for all the work the committee had done for the Cat Adoption and Education Centre.</p> <p><u>Cat Adoption and Education Centre</u></p> <p>Christy Lehman reported that cat adoptions since opening are at 489. Last month only 5 to 6 Cats available to adopt. It was noted that the Mayor released information in a press release identifying a spike in Cat adoptions. Outreach consideration to other groups to replenish the Cats available to adopt but the details will have to be worked out first.</p> <p>It was noted that the City will be hosting a Pet First Aid Course during Emergency Preparedness Week at the Cat Adoption and Education Centre. The public can sign up to participate in the course for a small fee. The wildlife seminar will take place on May 9 at the same location-Fireside lounge.</p> <p>Animal Care Committee noted people who have not signed up yet for the Unionville Music Festival booth by June 2 to please do so. Contact Denielle for details for the Bazaar/Garage sale event on June 9th.</p>	Christy to contact the community Centre.

4. New Business	<p>Councillor Burke announced that Neighbors of Old Thornhill Village Magazine highlighted the Animal Care Committee and made a donation of \$25 to the Centre.</p> <p>Animal Care Committee noted a pamphlet identifying bird friendly window programs, how are they going to be distributed to the communities?</p> <p>Christy noted, paper distribution and electronically.</p> <p>No new business. Julie moved to close and Rhiannon and Janet Seconded.</p>	<p>Noted that the Committee Chair should send a Thank you, newsletter will be sent out thanking the Animal Care Committee and Christy.</p>
5. Date of Next Meeting	May 16 th , 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ontario Room.	
6. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.	