



Animal Care Committee

MINUTES

**January 17, 2018
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

Members

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

Regrets

Kaushik Chawla
Kar Pak Ng
Rhiannon Lane
Shirley Lesch

Staff

Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

Guests and Members of the Public

Terri Daniels

Call to Order: The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:38 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, with Denielle Duncan, Chair presiding as Chair

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Ecological Corridors and Natural Heritage Planning	<p>Lilli Duoba, Manager of Natural Heritage provided a presentation entitled “Ecological Corridors and Natural Heritage Planning”. The presentation included: an overview of the legislation at the senior level of government; an overview of Markham’s guidelines and operational procedures; an overview of the greenway system in the City’s 2014 Official Plan; information on what an ecological corridor is; and pictures of different types of structures built for animals to pass over or under a busy road.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> The Committee discussed the following:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to educate the public on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How to react if you have an encounter with wildlife; ▪ Why you should not feed wildlife; ▪ Why it is important to have an ecological corridor and why they are successful; ▪ The large number of wildlife fatalities reported each year, noting there were 600 in 2017 (note: the type of animal was not tracked, but they are likely mostly raccoons, geese, and skunks). • Passage Ways for Animals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Different kind of animals will use passage ways built over or under a busy road; ○ The animals do not stay in the passage way for long, as they smell other animals; ○ There is not an issue with animal conflicts, as the animals do not stay in the passage way for long; ○ Animals are smart enough to use the passage ways. • Purchasing land for the Corridor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land Costs are typically shared equally by all three levels of government; ○ York Region is prepared to work on funding strategy to purchase the land; ○ Cost is the greatest barrier to this project; ○ Land is purchased from the landowners; ○ Landowners' preference is to develop the land. • Official Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Corridor included in Markham's 2014 Official Plan; ○ Corridor included in the Regional and Provincial Official Plans at a higher, broader level. • Wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When wetlands are designated provincially they are protected from development. • Council Approval of the Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will start moving the project forward if Council approves the project; ○ The City may need to look at changing its Official Plan if Council does not approve the project. <p>The Committee thanked Lilli Duoba for her presentation.</p>	
2. Approval of the November 15, 2017 Animal Care Committee meeting minutes	<p>Moved by: Janet Andrews Seconded by: Aviva Harari</p> <p>That the December 13, 2017, Animal Care Committee Minutes be approved, as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
3. Business arising from the Minutes	<p>Review of Action items:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the OSPCA tomorrow to discuss possible joint Animal Care Committee and OSPCA 2018 fundraising projects for the Cat Adoption and Education Centre (CAEC); Presenting the Committee's 2017 donation of \$2,500 to the CAEC to the General Committee on Monday, January 22, 2018. 	
4. Animal Control Program Update	<p>a. <u>Cat Adoption and Education Centre</u> Cat adoptions: There are 448 adoptions to date.</p> <p>b. <u>Barn Cat Program</u>: There was no update on this item at this time.</p> <p>c. <u>By-law Review</u>: Christy Lehman will report back to the Committee on the Animal Control By-Law review at the end of the first quarter. Most of the Committee's recommendations are being included in the by-law.</p>	
5. Events	<p>a. <u>Fundraising</u> The Committee raised \$163.00 at the Thornhill Village Festival.</p> <p>b. <u>Events scheduled for the remainder of the year</u></p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair advised that the Committee will attend fewer events this year. Events will be chosen strategically to maximize community outreach, and fundraising opportunities. Members were reminded that it is their responsibility to find someone to replace them if they are unable to attend a volunteer shift.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair reminded members that a volunteer is still required to take over the ACC Events Coordinator role from Rhiannon Lane, unless she will commit to this role for another year.</p>	
6. New Business	<p>a. <u>Animal Licence</u> Denielle Duncan advised that she received her animal licence renewal by email, but could not read the notice as it was in computer code and the link was not working.</p> <p>The Committee also wanted to ensure that the disclaimer on the licence has been updated to say that the funds donated will go to "Animal Services" rather than to the "Animal Care Committee". Christy Lehman agreed to look into this matter.</p> <p>b. <u>Barn Fires</u> Councillor Burke suggested that the Committee do some research on barn fires to see if there are any recommendations the City can make to the Province, as there has been a number of barn fires in the news and Markham does have a rural area.</p> <p>Aviva Harari provided some research on the subject to Councillor Burke. According to the research, education is the best way to stop the fires. The Committee could possibly have a brochure on</p>	<p>Ensure disclaimer on Animal Licence say funds go to Animal Services – Christy Lehman</p> <p>Add barn fires to the next agenda – Laura Gold</p>

	<p>the issue to circulate at events. The Committee agreed to add barn fires to the next agenda.</p> <p>c. <u>Coyote Awareness Program</u> The Committee asked if the City could host a Coyote Awareness Program for residents. Christy Lehman advised that she had reached out to Coyote Watch and they agreed to hold a workshop and provide literature on the issue. Council and staff would be invited to attend the workshop.</p> <p>d. <u>Pet Store – Sale of Puppies</u> Christy Lehman reported that Christopher Alexander provided an update by email on the recent incident regarding a Markham pet store selling kittens and puppies. Provisions regarding the sale of pets at pet stores will be added to the Animal Control By-law when it is being updated this spring, including that animals must be sourced from rescue groups. Existing pet stores may be provided with a date by which they must comply with the new by-law (if approved by Council), but it will be Council's decision how to handle the implementation of the new by-law if passed.</p> <p>e. <u>Lost Cat and Dogs</u> The Committee asked that an update on the lost dog found at Bayview and John be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan advised that a rescue group was unable to file a lost cat report with the OSPCA because the call was coming from a rescue group. Christy Lehman will look into this inquiry.</p> <p>f. <u>Contact Centre</u> The Committee asked if residents can call the City with animal inquiries or if they have to call the OSPCA directly. Christy Lehman advised they call the City and the phone call is transferred to the OSPCA, similar to when you call your bank and the call is transferred to another department.</p> <p>The Committee asked if the reason for the phone calls are tracked. Christy Lehman report she gets a monthly log of the phone calls in printed format.</p> <p>The Committee asked if a custom search regarding the type of phone call can be conducted. Christy Lehman advised that this could be done, but would need to be done manually.</p> <p>g. <u>OSPCA Contract</u> The Committee asked for an update on the status of the OSPCA contract. Christy Lehman advised that the contract expires on March 31, 2018, and that the City is preparing to go to market for quotes for providing the City's animal services. The OSPCA will likely continue to serve the City on a month to month basis until a new contract is awarded.</p> <p>h. <u>Recruitment of New Members</u> Laura Gold reported that the City will be recruiting for new members starting tomorrow.</p>	<p>Look into why lost pets cannot be filed by a rescue group – Christy Lehman</p>
7. Date of Next Meeting	February 21, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ontario Room.	

8. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.	
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