



Animal Care Committee

MINUTES

**April 19, 2017
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

<u>Members</u> Denielle Duncan, Chair Terri Daniels, Vice-Chair Janet Andrews Dr. Esther Attard Councillor Valerie Burke Julie Sook-Man Chan Kaushik Chawla Sherry Klein Rhiannon Lane Shirley Lesch Kar Pak Ng	<u>Regrets</u> Michelle Lustri
<u>Staff</u> Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)	
<u>Guests and Members of the Public</u> Furhail Kashmiri Rick Chan Maya Thayalan Maraiah Brown Dhra Chourey	

Call to Order: The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, with Denielle Duncan presiding as Chair

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Approval of the March 15, 2017 Animal Care Committee meeting minutes	Moved by: Shirley Lesch Seconded by: Janet Andrews That the minutes of the March 15, 2017, meeting of the Animal Care Committee meeting be approved as distributed. <div>CARRIED</div>	

<p>2. Business arising from the Minutes</p>	<p>a. Review of Action items:</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the Action items from the previous meeting. The following updates were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that Shades of Hope (SOH) already have the Toronto Wildlife Manual. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services proposed in lieu of the May 17, 2017, ACC meeting, she has organized a site visit to the Shades of Hope in Pepperlaw. Christy advised that she has contacted Gail Lenters, Founder and Board Member of the SOH, who has agreed to the site visit by members of the Markham ACC on Wednesday, May 17, 2017. <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair suggested that members consider Christy's proposal of a site visit to SOH on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, in lieu of the regular ACC meeting scheduled for that day. Denielle will poll the Committee members by email seeking their feedback on the site visit.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services and John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT) advised that they will not be available for the May 17, 2017 ACC meeting.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Janet Andrews, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she will provide the address of Shades of Hope.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she is working on preparing an education session for the first or second weekend in May. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she is still trying to locate the electronic version of a diagram done by a former animal care services manager on how to wildlife proof homes. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she spoke with her Senior Manager about a brochure on Animal and Wildlife Services, who suggested that it would be advisable if the ACC members could send her potential material on the activities and achievements of the ACC that could form part of the Animal Care Services brochure. Christy further advised that this could be an opportunity for the Committee to highlight their activities and achievements. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she will send the statistics to the Committee members by the next meeting. 	<p>Denielle to poll Committee members for site visit responses.</p> <p>Christy to email SOH address to Committee members.</p> <p>Christy to work on finalizing wildlife education session.</p> <p>Christy to email statistics to the Committee</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With respect to fillable forms, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that the IT Department is currently working on major updates to the City website and this request could be forwarded to the consultant working on this project for consideration. With respect to the off leash dog park, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she will need to contact Linda Irwine who is the staff person who attended the ACC meeting last year to confirm the status of this project. Christy further advised that she believes that this project is likely to be brought for Council's consideration soon. Christy will find out further details and inform the Committee accordingly. 	Christy to provide further updates on the off leash dog park.
3. Animal Control Program Update	<p>a. Cat Adoption & Education Centre (CAEC)</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she is working on the events calendar for this year which will include two rabies clinics tentatively at the end of May and June. Christy further advised that approximately 303 adoptions have been registered so far. There will be a "future vet camp" for children throughout the summer for one evening a week for 1 ½ hour. Those interested can sign up through the OSPCA website.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Denielle Duncan, Chair, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that it is expected that participants attend all sessions of the "future vet clinic", however, drop-ins are also encouraged.</p> <p>b. Barn Cat Program</p> <p>No update was provided. Denielle Duncan, Chair advised that these updates will be provided every quarter.</p>	
4. Events	<p>a. Fundraising</p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair advised that the Sustainability event will be held next week following the Earth Week. A booth will be at this event. We still need one or two additional volunteers for this event from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.</p> <p>Denielle further advised of the Unionville Festival scheduled for June 3, 2017. Currently only one person has volunteered for this event. We still need one more volunteers for the afternoon on that day.</p> <p>The Markham Music Festival is scheduled to be held on June 16 and 17, 2017. Two volunteers are required for the afternoon of this event.</p> <p>Sherry Klein volunteered for the Stiver Mill Doggie Day event.</p>	

	<p>Denielle Duncan, Chair advised of the volunteers who have signed up for the various events. Denielle and Rhiannon will email details of events and volunteers to the Committee members.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Rhiannon, Councillor Valerie Burke agreed that her drive way can be used for the Thornhill Festival event.</p> <p>Janet Andrews advised that the opening day of the Farmers Market is Saturday, May 13, 2017.</p>	<p>Denielle and Rhiannon to email events and volunteers info.</p> <p>.</p>
5. New Business	<p>a. <u>Petting Zoo</u></p> <p>Councillor Valerie Burke informed that the Alex LaSalle petting zoo will be featured at the Markham Village Music Festival this year to be held at the Morgan Park in Markham.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan advised that the reviews that she read about Petting Zoos do not indicate anything good or bad. There is only a whole bunch of photos and a little article about it in the newspaper. She advised that from what she has seen in the past, these mostly involve domestic and farm animals.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she can organize for OSPCA to check out the animals at the Petting Zoo, if that would be of any help.</p> <p>The Committee discussed pros and cons of petting zoos.</p> <p>b. <u>Elections</u></p> <p>Denielle Duncan advised that in response to her emails about elections she only received nominations from Rhiannon Lane for Events Coordinator and Janet Andrews for Vice Chair. Denielle further advised that elections will be held for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Events Coordinator and Treasurer.</p> <p>Responding to a request from Rhiannon Lane, Janet Andrews advised of the various duties carried out by the Treasurer.</p> <p>Kaushik Chawla nominated Denielle Duncan for the position of Chair.</p> <p>As no further nominations were received for the Chair's position, Denielle Duncan was acclaimed Chair of the Animal Services Committee for 2017.</p> <p>Kaushik Chawla nominated Janet Andrews for the position of Vice Chair.</p>	<p>Christy to organize OSPCA visit to Petting Zoo.</p>

	<p>As no further nominations were received for the Vice Chair's position, Janet Andrews was acclaimed Vice Chair of the Animal Services Committee for 2017.</p> <p>Janet Andrews nominated Julie Sook-Man Chan for the position of Treasurer.</p> <p>As no further nominations were received for the Treasurer's position, Julie Sook-Man Chan was acclaimed Treasurer of the Animal Services Committee for 2017</p> <p>Janet Andrews nominated Rhiannon Lane for the position of Events Coordinator.</p> <p>As no further nominations were received for the Events Coordinator's position, Rhiannon Lane was acclaimed Events Coordinator of the Animal Services Committee for 2017</p> <p>c. <u>Live Harmoniously With Wildlife</u></p> <p>Councillor Valerie Burke informed that under the section Helpful Hints in her newsletter she has inserted a section on "Live Harmoniously with Wildlife". Councillor Burke advised that she received a phone call from a resident requesting that the City shoot the coyotes that come to their backyard.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan informed that this is one of the common questions that she hopes will be discussed when we do an education session with the public. Denielle suggested that if the education sessions are organized after community event, some printed material could be made available at the community events as attendees at such events tend to pick up wildlife literature on their way out. Christy informed that she will try and get some material, with specific mention about coyotes, ready before the next event scheduled for May 13.</p> <p>d. <u>Cat Adoption and Education Centre – Annual Review</u></p> <p>Councilor Valerie Burke inquired when the Committee would be presenting Council with a cheque for the CAEC from their fundraising efforts. Denielle Duncan, Chair advised that the Committee was waiting for the elections. Councillor Burke also alluded to the Annual Review of the CAEC, and suggested that would be an opportune time for the Committee to present the cheque to Council.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she will inform the Committee when the report on the Annual Review of the CAEC is ready for Council, so the Committee could prepare presenting the cheque to Council so both events could be done simultaneously. Janet Andrews suggested that several Committee members could attend the Council meeting for the cheque presentation.</p>	<p>Christy to advise completion of report to Council on CAEC Annual Review.</p>
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	<p>the injured wildlife is still there when the OSPCA attends to the distress call.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Terri Daniels, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that distressed or injured wildlife picked up by the OSPCA are sent directly to the SOH. Denielle Duncan, Chair advised that residents can call other wildlife rehab centres to ask how a distressed or injured wildlife can be attended to. This information is available online for all wildlife rehab centres.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that all wildlife dispatch agents are trained to respond to such questions. She further advised that the Toronto Wildlife Centre guide is also a good resource for such matters.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Janet Andrews, Vice Chair, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that OSPCA is the primary contact for all wildlife related matters, who will advise the caller the appropriate action to be taken depending on the issue/concern. Janet further inquired whether the City of Markham website has been updated with the relevant information about the new wildlife service provider. Christy advised that since the City's webpage is currently in freeze mode, she will need to figure out how to go about updating it with the relevant new information.</p> <p>Christy further advised that calls to the OSPCA helpline are answered 24/7. The only time one may have to leave a message is if the operator is on another call, as only one dispatcher is available overnight, however, messages are responded to as soon as possible.</p> <p>Responding to questions with respect to contacting other wildlife rehab centres, Christy advised that OSPCA is the sole wildlife service provider for the City of Markham, and as such, contacting other providers for wildlife providers could give rise to contractual and/or financial issues. All additional funding matter will need Council approval. Councilor Burke advised that her request for additional funding for wildlife related matters was not approved by Council. She further advised that residents should request additional funding at the Budget public meetings for consideration by Council during the annual budget process.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Janet Andrews, Vice Chair, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that approximately \$10,000 was budgeted for afterhours calls for wildlife related matters.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Rhiannon Lane with respect to additional budget allocation for afterhours wildlife related matters, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services and Councilor Burke advised that this matter would</p>	
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	<p>need to be further investigated to find out staff responses to the requests.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan advised that if statistics were available for the number of distressed wildlife calls that could not be attended to as they were afterhours, that would be a different situation. Rhiannon Lane believed there would be more calls generated on statutory holidays as people would be at home to witness a wildlife in distress. Denielle suggested that if all calls were routed through one contact centre, it would not be difficult to record statistics.</p> <p>Janet Andrews, Vice Chair suggested that on-call staff could be appointed to attend to afterhours or weekend wildlife related issues. Christy advised that from past experience, most of the time the distressed wildlife was not found at the spot when the animal care officer reached there.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair inquired if a list of alternative wildlife service providers could be listed for afterhours/weekend wildlife related services. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that approval from Council would be required for such a service. Christy further advised that the call made on Good Friday by the resident as answered by the OSPCA dispatch officer, and the resident was advised on the necessary steps to be taken to contain the distressed wildlife, however, the resident on their own initiative chose to call another wildlife service provider.</p> <p>Janet Andrews, Vice Chair suggested that OSPCA should advise callers that they are not able to attend the service request as it is on a holiday, however, the caller could contact another wildlife service provider for advice on how to resolve the issue. Christy advised that she will need to review the call to determine what actually transpired between the caller and the OSPCA dispatch officer on Good Friday.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that one has to be very careful with what is put on the City website, as the City is bound by contract with one particular rescue and rehabilitation centre.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Councillor Valerie Burke, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that the OSPCA officers have recently received training from the SOH on how to respond to calls related to injured/distressed wildlife. Christy that the site visit to the SOH will enable the Committee members to appreciate the level and quality of wildlife services being provided by SOH. Christy further advised that only in extreme situations where the quality of life of the injured/distressed wildlife would be compromised, would the SOH consider euthanizing the wildlife. SOH is the only facility in the GTA that accepts closed-eyed babies. SOH hires 12 interns every summer. SOH has also purchased a home for 12 interns, medical students and veterinarians to live during their internship period.</p>	
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6. Date of Next Meeting	Site visit to the Shades of Hope in Pepperlaw on May 17, 2017	
7. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.	