



Animal Care Committee

MINUTES

**March 13, 2017
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

<p><u>Members</u></p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair Terri Daniels, Vice-Chair Janet Andrews Councillor Valerie Burke Sherry Klein Rhiannon Lane Shirley Lesch Kar Pak Ng</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u></p> <p>Esther Attard Julie Sook-Man Chan Kaushik Chawla Michelle Lustri</p>
<p><u>Staff</u></p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services Marco Francisco, Acting Coordinator, Licensing & Animal Services John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)</p>	
<p><u>Guests and Members of the Public</u></p> <p>Furhait Kashmiri Bernice Royce Councillor Amanda Collucci and daughter</p>	

Call to Order: The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:35 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2017, with Denielle Duncan presiding as Chair

Item	Discussion	Action
<p>1. Approval of the February 15, 2017 Animal Care Committee meeting minutes</p>	<p>The following amendments were made to the February 15, 2017, Animal Care Committee meeting minutes:</p> <p>Page 2, Item 2. Private Cat Café First sentence of the last paragraph:</p> <p>Add the word “meet” between the words ‘proponents’ and ‘with’, and delete the words “also possibly” to read as follows:</p> <p>Councillor Valerie Burke suggested that the proponents meet with the local Ward Councillor and also be prepared to make a presentation to General Committee.</p>	

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	<p>Page 3, Item 5. Cat Adoption & Education Centre Last sentence of 2nd paragraph – replace with:</p> <p>Christy suggested that Councillor Valerie Burke may want to say a few words at the event.</p> <p>Moved by: Janet Andrews Seconded by: Rhiannon Lane</p> <p>That the minutes of the February 15, 2017, meeting of the Animal Care Committee meeting be approved, as amended. CARRIED</p>	
<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 the video link sent by Terri Daniels to all Committee members and Christy Lehman on the renovation of a cat adoption centre still did not work. It was suggested that Christy try opening the link on her home computer as the City's server may not be allowing access to this particular link. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that the Wildlife Contract has been approved and awarded to Shades of Hope (SOH) Wildlife Refuge. They cater to all species of wildlife, and if they don't have the capability at their own facilities, they have a number of groups that they work with. SOH is located in Pepperlaw and the mode of contact is through OSPCA who work 24/7. Gail Lenters is the Founder of SOH. The contract is for an initial period of 1 year, with an option to renew for a further two 1 year periods. <p>Councillor Burke expressed concerns with the information provided on the SOH website regarding ways to prevent birds from hitting residential windows. The SOH website recommends to put decorative decals on windows. This information is more than 15 years old and does not work. SOH needs to update this information especially since it has recently been awarded the wildlife services contract from the City of Markham. Markham has been a leader in helping to prevent birds from hitting windows. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she will contact SOH to relay this information to them.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Terri Daniels, Christy Lehman advised that SOH provides rehab for all wildlife, from birds to deer, including raccoons and predators.</p> <p>Responding to another question from Terri Daniels, Christy</p>	<p>Christy to contact SOH to update their website.</p>

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	<p>Lehman advised that they are all volunteers, with probably an exception of Gail Lenters who is the Founder of SOH. Christy further advised that OSPCA does the pickup and delivers to SOH.</p> <p>OSPCA will also handle all incoming calls from the public re wildlife and told the committee that their staff were recently re-trained on how to respond to wildlife calls.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Councillor Burke, Christy Lehman advised that SOH does euthanasia, if required, based on Toronto Wildlife Centre's assessment.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Denielle Duncan, Christy Lehman advised that she is not sure if the contract specifies that the injured wildlife needs to be transported to SOH within a specified period of time. She further advised that injured wildlife are transported directly to SOH. Christy also advised that there is no provision to respond to after-hours calls. Toronto Wildlife Centre only operates between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., whereas OSPCA operates 24/7.</p> <p>Responding to another question from Denielle Duncan, Christy Lehman advised that the SOH contract is on a monthly payment basis not a fee per animal basis.</p> <p>Terri Daniels informed that the Toronto Wildlife Centre has a very good manual for persons responding to calls of distressed wildlife, and was wondering if SOH has a copy of this manual. Christy advised that she does not have an answer to this question. Denielle Duncan advised that this manual is used all over North America, and it can be purchased from Toronto Wildlife Centre.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Terri Daniels, Christy advised that she could recommend that SOH purchases this manual, if they don't already have it.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Councillor Burke, Christy Lehman advised that she believes that SOH has a bigger wildlife rehab facility than that of Toronto Wildlife Centre.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Services advised that she will be organizing a site visit to SOH, and inquired if any members of the Animal Care Committee would like to visit the SOH, as well. Denielle Duncan and Janet Andrews expressed willingness to visit SOH with Christy Lehman.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised the Animal Care Committee that Toronto Wildlife Centre disqualified themselves from the RFP for the new contract based on the purchasing process. They did not bid on the scope of work, and they were asked a couple</p>	<p>Christy to recommend SOH purchase manual from Toronto Wildlife Centre.</p> <p>Christy to organize SOH site visit. Denielle and Janet to accompany her.</p>

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	<p>of times to provide clarifications, but they did not comply. The contract had to be awarded to SOH, the sole bidder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that a public education session will be organized as part of the "Be Kind To Animals Week" (First week of May) or "Wildlife Week" (week of April 5). At the request of Denielle Duncan, Christy advised that she can request a component on coyotes and foxes to be added in the education session as Denielle pointed out that the committee receives a lot of questions regarding these two animals when they hold outreach events. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that there is no provision in the Animal Services By-law restricting the use of certain types of materials for decorative residential fences. She further advised that all residential fences are governed by the Fencing By-law. Marco Francisco, Acting Coordinator, Licensing & Animal Services advised that most people construct fences on the property line to maximize the usable space within their property. <p>Responding to a question by Janet Andrews, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that a residential boundary fence cannot be regulated from the perspective that it is a hazard to wildlife. This could be brought to the attention of the Property Standards Department who will consider all safety issues related to the type of fencing material in question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that there is a communications plan in the By-laws area which could be utilized as an education tool for the benefit of the community. She further advised about a diagram done by a former animal care services manager on how to wildlife proof homes. She will try to locate this picture. <p>The Committee discussed the need for public education on how to protect themselves and the wildlife around them, especially people who live in homes backing on to a conservation area.</p> <p>Responding to a question by Janet Andrews, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she will refer the request that Corporate Communications prepare a brochure on the achievements of Animal Care Services to the Director of Legislative Services & Communications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she is meeting with the 10-year-old resident who would like to purchase a pet pygmy hedgehog, and her mother on Thursday, March 16, 2017, 	<p>Christy to locate picture of "How to Wildlife proof Your home".</p> <p>Christy to contact Dir of Leg Ser & Comm re Brochure on achievements of Animal Care Services</p>

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	<p>Christy further advised that, based on the research provided by the Animal Care Committee, staff is recommending that the resident apply for an exemption to the By-law, and encourage the use of a local hedgehog rescue. As well, considering the age of the applicant, staff is recommending to waive the application fee for seeking exemption from the By-law, however, staff will not support amending the By-law to eliminate the owning of a pet hedgehog.</p>	
<p>3. Animal Control Program Update</p>	<p>a. Cat Adoption & Education Centre (CAEC)</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services provided an update on the 1st birthday celebrations of the CAEC that was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. She further advised that the event was a great success, considering the inclement weather conditions on the day.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that 285 cats have been adopted out to date. She further advised that the 'future vet camp' event did not get a good response, maybe because the parents were looking for some activity that would keep the kids occupied for the whole day, and this program was only for 1 ½ hours. Staff is proposing to run the same program in July, one evening every week for five weeks.</p> <p>Responding to a question by Terri Daniels, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that the library is using the CAEC for reading programs. The Library has reached out to its other branches and have put together a trolley with approximately 30 books related to animals. Staff is trying their best to promote the reading therapy program.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services commended the Library for all their support at the CAEC's 1st birthday celebrations by providing craft material, use of the kids activity room for screening the movie, dedicating story times to cats and animals, and in many other ways supporting the work of Animal Services.</p> <p>Councillor Burke suggested that going forward, such events should be advertised as City of Markham events.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Councillor Burke, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that the \$5,000 received from RBC will be spent for the CAEC, e.g. media, books, supplies, etc.</p> <p>b. Barn Cat Program</p> <p>No update was provided.</p>	

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	<p>Responding to a question from Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services, with respect to updates on the Barn Cat Program as a monthly item on the agenda, the Committee was of the opinion that this update could be provided every other month.</p> <p>Responding to a suggestion by Terri Daniels, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that OSPCA statistics can be provided on a quarterly basis as these are only received after the 16th of every month.</p>	
4. Events	<p>a. Fundraising</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she received an email from the Unionville Festival asking if the committee would be attending the festival. Rhiannon Lane said she had already submitted the application as per the committee's request.</p> <p>Committee discussed the possibility of having outreach tables at the opening of the Stiver/Unionville Farmer's Market, the opening of the Markham Farmer's Market and the Markham Music Festival</p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair advised that the Key Dates to Remember section in the agenda needs to be updated. Rhiannon Lane will email Laura Gold and John Britto the relevant information.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair advised that we should do the Doggie Day at Stiver/Unionville Market and would like the OSPCA to attend this event. It was suggested that this event be held sometime in September, as it could be too hot in August for the dogs.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that Global has contacted her seeking support to host an event similar to "Barkham". Christy advised that she does not have the resources, so she was seeking the Committee's feedback on whether she could suggest to Global to consider the Stivermill Doggie Day. Christy will email the relevant information to the Committee members.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair discussed the following proclamations:</p> <p>Feral Cat Day; Oct 16, 2017 Be Kind to Animals Week (First Week of May) Animal Health Week (Oct 1-7) National Wildlife Week (Week of April 5).</p>	<p>Rhiannon to email Laura and John, Key Dates to Remember information.</p> <p>Rhiannon will send out potential schedules to committee members. Janet will contact head of Markham BIA to inquire about Markham Music Festival and Farmer's market. Denielle will contact head of Stiver Mill Market to ask about Opening day at Stiver Market and Doggie Day.</p> <p>Christy Lehman to email information about Global proposal to host an event.</p>
5. New Business	<p>a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair</p> <p>Moved by: Janet Andrews</p>	

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	<p>Seconded by: Rhiannon Lane</p> <p>That the election of Chair and Vice Chair be deferred to the April 19, 2017, Animal Care Committee meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>b. Councillor Amanda Collucci thanked Councillor Valerie Burke for agreeing to let her daughter attend the Animal Care Committee meeting as an observer, as she is an avid animal lover. Denielle Duncan explained the various activities of the Animal Care Committee and invited her to attend any of the public outreach events the committee does to learn more about what they do, she was also invited to attend any ACC meeting in the future.</p> <p>c. Janet Andrews suggested that Christy Lehman contact the staff in the IT Department that is responsible for the fillable forms on the City website in an effort to explore the possibility of not having to enter applicant's personal details every time a new form is created ,as had to be done by the Chair to apply for the animal proclamations.</p> <p>d. Responding to a question from Shirley Lesch on any update on the proposed off leash dog park, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that she will follow-up with the relevant staff .</p> <p>e. Responding to a suggestion from Shirley Lesch with respect to the W5 program on lab animals, Janet Andrews advised that this is beyond the scope of the Animal Care Committee. She further suggested that committee members could contact their local MPs, as individuals, to express their concern about the cruelty to animals in the name of science. Janet Andrews also informed that there was an article in the Toronto Star as a follow up to the W5 CTV program on this matter. Councilor Burke also suggested that members contact their MP's as individuals.</p> <p>f. Councillor Burke informed that Ann Rohmer of CP24 has accepted her request to appear on a news program to talk about the Tim Hortons and MacDonald's packaging that is proving to be a choking hazard for wildlife. Councillor Burke suggested that it would be a good idea if the Chair of the Animal Care Committee would join her on the TV program, as well. Denielle Duncan advised that Tim Hortons and MacDonald's need to be requested to change their packaging design in order to make it wildlife friendly.</p> <p>g. Councillor Burke informed that the City of Markham has signed an agreement of Cultural Collaboration with Eabametoong First Nation (EFN), also known as Fort Hope. Councillor Burke has spoken to the liaison person of the EFN about the City of Markham's Animal Care Committee and our expertise with dogs. He has promised to follow-up with additional information about stray dogs in the EFN</p>	<p>Christy to contact IT with respect to fillable forms on the City portal.</p> <p>Christy to follow-up re off leash dog park.</p>

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	<p>community. Councillor Burke is hoping that the Committee will provide all help and support to the EFN community in this regard.</p> <p>Councillor Burke further informed that the EFN community will soon have access to Markham's online library system. Once the winter road to EFN opens up, sports and fitness equipment will be delivered for the community's new fitness program. The City of Markham is also offering EFN municipal management resources as well as business assistance and mentoring opportunities.</p> <p>h. Janet Andrews informed that when she renewed her pet licence, she did not get her new PetConnect Card. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that the PetConnect program does not exist anymore. She further advised that a new rewards program will be announced soon.</p> <p>i. Shirley Klein informed that the Toronto Licensing and Standards Committee has amended Chapter 349-8 of their By-law to prohibit the tethering of an animal for no longer than one hour and the use of choke collars, choke chains, pronged collars or any similar device on dogs. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that as part of the City of Markham's Animal Control By-law review, staff will reach out to neighbouring municipalities to find out what their practices are. The Animal Care Committee will have an opportunity to provide feedback as part of the review process.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Councillor Burke, Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that the By-law review is likely to happen sometime in the Fall.</p> <p>j. Terri Daniels informed that the Unionville BIA suggested an opportunity of organizing a Rodeo as a fundraiser. Councillor Burke informed that this suggestion by a member of the Unionville BIA was not supported, and the minutes of their meeting has this on record.</p> <p>k. Terri Daniels advised that a friend informed about rodent traps outside the Thornhill Community Centre. She was not sure whether these traps were meant to trap rodents. Christy Lehman, Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Animal Services advised that this could be a standard Asset Management exercise, and suggested that a complaint be lodged with the City to investigate the matter.</p>	
6. Date of Next Meeting	5:30 pm, April 19, 2017, in the Ontario Room	
7. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.	