

Animal Care Committee
April 20, 2016
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Attendance: Councillor Valerie Burke , Denielle Duncan, Chair, Terri Daniels, Vice-Chair, Furhait Kashmiri, Shirley Lesch, Kaushik Chawla, Nicole Hendricks, Peter Karounos, Julie Sook-Man Chan, Pam Young ,Pushproup Brar, Michelle Lustri and Rhiannon Lane

Staff: Christy Lehman, Licensing & Standards Coordinator, Jessica Yau, Sustainability Assistant, and Laura Gold, Committee Clerk

Guests and Members of the Public: OSPCA Officer, Bernice Royce, and Janet Andrews

Regrets: Esther Attard

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:38 p.m. with Denielle Duncan presiding as Chair.	
2. Introduction of New Members	The Committee welcomed the new members.	
3. Minutes	Moved by Julie Sook-Man Chan Seconded by Pam Young That the Minutes from the March 16, 2016, Animal Care Committee meeting be approved.	CARRIED

Item	Discussion	Action
<p>4. Business Arising From the Minutes</p>	<p>The Committee reviewed the action items from the previous meeting.</p>	
<p>5. Canada's First Monarch Butterfly Friendly City</p>	<p>Jessica Yau, Sustainability Assistant was in attendance to report that Council proclaimed Markham as Canada's first Monarch Butterfly Friendly City. The City is taking this action as the monarch butterfly population has been declining steadily over the years. The butterfly like other pollinators helps move pollen from one plant to another, which helps flowers blossom and our fruit and vegetables grow. The Sustainability Office will be implementing the following actions to help create a monarch friendly environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a public communication effort to encourage citizens to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighbourhoods; • Communicate with community gardens groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar producing plants; • Convene a meeting with gardening leaders in the community to discuss partnerships to support monarch butterfly conservation; • Continue to support the monarch & pollinator friendly demonstration garden at City Hall; • Consider the use of native milkweed and nectar plants on city properties where appropriate. • Identifying opportunities for milkweed/ nectar plants, planting & seeding programs; <p>The Committee noted that the milkweed may be poisonous to cats, dogs, and children and requested that staff look into this. Staff suggested that only certain types of milkweed are poisonous and that it is only poisonous if large quantities are consumed, but agreed to do further investigation on the matter.</p>	<p>Look into if milkweed is poisonous to cats, dogs, and children – Jessica Yau</p>

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	<p>The Committee told Jessica Yau that there might be a possible chance in the future to share a table at an event and to please notify us when she has literature on the monarchs so we can have them on our ACC table at events.</p>	
<p>6. Barn Cat Program</p>	<p>An OSPCA officer was in attendance to provide an overview of Markham’s barn cat program. Most of the cats are brought to horse farms. The cats are kept in confinement for one to two weeks. The confinement period is to ensure the cat are aware that the farm is where they will receive food and shelter. The barn owner is responsible for feeding the cats and for providing them with any necessary medical attention. The OSPCA will check in on the cats from time to time. The barns have been found through previously established relationships with barn owners.</p> <p>The Committee noted the importance of checking in on the cats to ensure they are settling in well, and being treated well. It was also suggested that the confinement period be extended to ensure that the cats learn that the barn is where they get food and shelter as per the recommendation of almost every feral and stray cat group, experts suggest 3-4 week minimum.</p>	
<p>7. Animal Control Program Update</p>	<p>a. <u>Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) Pilot Project Update</u> No report was provided.</p> <p>b. <u>OSPCA Update</u> The OSPCA stats will be reviewed at the next meeting, the committee suggested it be first on the agenda or at least near the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p>c. <u>Barn Cats and Fundraising for the Cat Adoption & Education Centre</u> The Committee asked if another educational presentation by Toronto Wildlife can be organized to be held in the next few weeks and it suggested that it be better promoted. Christy Lehman advised that a second presentation is scheduled to be held in the fall, as</p>	<p>See if the Toronto Wildlife presentation can be held earlier than the fall – Christy Lehman</p>

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	<p>Toronto Wildlife will be entering its busy period, but she will inquire if it can be held earlier.</p> <p>d. <u>Fundraising Auction</u> The Committee discussed the fundraising auction. Committee Members were encouraged to ask friends and family for items to donate to the auction. Michelle Lustrri advised she will purchase the Solar Stage gift cards, which will expire prior to the auction start date.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan sent Christy Lehman the marketing plan for the auction.</p> <p>e. <u>Animal Care Committee Brochure</u> Since the last meeting, changes to the Animal Care Committee brochure were sent to Christy. The next step is for Corporate Communications to review the brochure and for the committee to select the picture for the front of the brochure. The picture previously used can be used again or a new picture can be used.</p>	<p>Try to gather items for the fundraising auction – All Committee Members</p>
<p>8. Events</p>	<p>The Committee discussed upcoming events it will be participating in and the volunteer schedule. Upcoming events include: Unionville Festival; Markham Music Festival; and the farmers markets. The Committee discussed possibly sharing a booth with the City at Markham Fair, and having a booth at the end of Councillor Burke’s driveway at the Thornhill Village Festival in the fall.</p> <p>The Committee Members were asked to sign-up for one or more volunteer shifts at upcoming events.</p> <p>The Committee was looking for a better canopy to purchase, but the Chair was having a difficult time finding one. Dr. Brar advised that it can borrow his canopy in the meantime.</p> <p>Christy Lehman advised that the City is holding the following three events: 1) May 1 –</p>	<p>Sign up for volunteer shifts – Committee Members</p>

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	<p>an event in combination with Emergency Preparedness Week; 2) May 15 - a rabies clinic at Markham Village; 3) June 26 - rabies clinic in Thornhill.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan asked if any posters or literature promoting the events had been prepared. Christy advised that staff were still working on the promotional materials for these events and that she will email the literature to the Committee when it is complete.</p>	<p>Email the literature for the events to the Committee once complete – Christy Lehman.</p>
<p>9. New Business</p>	<p><u>Update on the Letter on the Impact of Plastic Dome Lids on Wildlife</u> Councillor Burke advised that the letters sent by the Mayor to McDonalds and Tim Hortons on the impact of the plastic dome lids on wildlife were received for information purposes by th General Committee. A response was also received from Tim Hortons Canada. A copy of the letter from Tim Hortons was included in the agenda package.</p> <p><u>Cleaning Products</u> Councillor Burke reported that Markham uses cleaning products that are environmentally friendly and that are not tested on animals.</p>	
<p>10. Adjournment</p>	<p>The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:17 p.m.</p>	