

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

Attendance: Councillor Valerie Burke , Denielle Duncan, Chair, Christy Lehman, Licensing & Standards Coordinator, Furhait Kashmiri, Terri Daniels, Shirley Lesch, Julie Sook-Man Chan, Pushproup Brar, Rhiannon Lane, and Michelle Lustri Staff: Laura Gold, Committee Clerk Members of the Public: Bernice Royce, and Janet Andrews (by teleconference) Regrets: Esther Attard, and Pam Young	
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Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:40 p.m. with Denielle Duncan presiding as Chair.	
2. Minutes	Moved by Furhait Kashmiri Seconded by Pushproup Brar That the Minutes from the December 16, 2015, Animal Care Committee meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED	
3. Business Arising From the Minutes	The Committee reviewed the action items from the previous meeting.	

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4. Animal Control Program Update	a. <u>Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) Pilot Project Update</u> Christy Lehman advised Denielle Duncan to re-submit the email receipt for the vet care for the cats that were trapped, neutered, and returned and to omit the word “donation”. b. <u>OSPCA Update</u> Christy Lehman reported she is still working on the 2015, OSPCA statistics. The statistics are looking very favourable so far. There were approximately 110 adoptions in 2015. A more comprehensive review of the statistics will be provided at the next meeting. c. <u>Barn Cats and Fundraising for the Cat Adoption & Education Centre</u> Christy Lehman reported that the Cat Adoption & Education Centre opened last week. There were 375 visitors and 14 cats adopted in its first week of operation. The centre is getting lots of media attention. The official launch of the centre will be held on February 23, 2016. Staff advised it costs \$190 to adopt a kitten, and \$160 to adopt a cat. All of the cats have been vaccinated, and spayed or neutered. The majority of the cats being brought to the centre are from Markham. Residents interested in volunteering at the centre can submit an application form to the OSPCA. The OSPCA is looking for about 20 volunteers. Once these positions are filled, it will keep a list of the residents interested in volunteering, which will be used to fill future volunteer opportunities. The Committee requested that Christy Lehman ensure that residents are being thanked for submitting an application to volunteer. The Committee asked if the centre will have any programs. Staff advised that the City plans to have programs at the centre. Some of the programs will have a participation fee and others will be free. Currently, there is a plan to have two slots a week for struggling	Re-submit donation receipt – Denielle Provide update on OSPCA stats at the next meeting - Christy Ensure residents interested in volunteering at the centre are being thanked – Christy

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	readers to practice reading at the centre. There are also plans to sell cupcakes during National Cupcake Week to raise funds for the centre. The Committee suggested holding a workshop on first aid for pets at the centre and possibly asking a vet to provide the workshop. The Committee also asked if the staff at the Centre were following up with people that adopted a cat and if they are being given any literature on caring for their cat to take home with them. Staff advised that people adopting a cat are provided with both oral instruction on how to care for their cat and are provided with literature to take home with them. They can also contact staff at the adoption centre if they have questions regarding the care of their cat in the future. The Committee asked if signage regarding the true cost of adoption will be put up at the Centre (e.g. neutering, vaccines, and microchips). Staff advised that signage for the Centre is in the process of being created. Furthermore, a brochure on caring for your cat has recently been created and is in the process of being printed. The brochure will be put at the Centre. The Committee suggested extending the hours of the centre on Saturday, as this is when most adoptions typically occur. Staff advised that the centre is only open for a short period of time on Saturday so that the cats do not get stressed from all the visitors. The centre hours will likely be reviewed once it has been operating for a while.	
5. Events	Rhiannon Lane agreed to update the event calendar for 2016. The Committee discussed holding an event at the First Markham Place to reach out to the Chinese community in Markham. The Clerk will ask the Environmental Advisory Committee for a contact, as it holds its Earth Day event at this location.	Prepare the 2016 event calendar – Rhiannon Lane As Environmental Advisory Committee for a contract for the First Markham Place –

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6. New Business	A. <u>Recommendation on New Dome Lids which will not be hazardous to Markham Wildlife</u> The Committee thanked Jennifer Ford and Julie Colangelo for preparing the letter on finding alternative solutions to the dome shaped refreshment lids that are hazardous to wildlife. Moved by Rhiannon Lane Seconded by Shirley Lesch That the Animal Care Committee request that the City of Markham show its support in mitigating injuries to wildlife, as consistent with Markham's Green Print Plan, by encouraging restaurant establishments in Ontario to find an alternative, preventative, solution to the use of dome shaped refreshment lids that can trap and cause injury to wildlife; and, That the Animal Care Committee request that the attached letter to McDonalds, Tim Hortons, and the Restaurant Association of Ontario, on the matter, be signed by Mayor Frank Scarpitti. B. <u>Octopus Cruelty</u> Staff checked to see if the restaurant that is being cruel to octopuses is in compliance with all health regulations, and it was in compliance with all regulations. Staff have exhausted all avenues with respect to addressing the issue. The Committee discussed the actions they can take as individuals to help stop the cruelty to octopuses. C. <u>Proclamation Requests</u>	Laura Gold

