

Animal Care Committee
February 17th, 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, Rhiannon Lane, Esther Attard, Pam Young, and Michelle Lustri

Staff: Linda Irvine, Manager, Parks and Open Space Development, & Nory Takata, Parks Planner

Members of the Public: Yolanta Bronny, Janet Andrews and Bonnie Wong

Regrets: Pushproup Brar, Laura Gold, Committee Clerk

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:44pm with Denielle Duncan presiding as Chair.	
2. Minutes	Moved by Rhainnon Lane Seconded by Julie Chan That the Minutes from the January 20 th , 2016, Animal Care Committee meeting be approved as presented.	CARRIED
3. Deputation	Bonnie Wong was in attendance to speak regarding opening an indoor space for dog owners to take their dogs for exercise and networking. It was suggested using designated times at the Pan Am Centre. The City could use it as a perk available to residents that license their pets. Christy advised that it is against City policy to have any animals (other than service animals) in City owned facilities, however, this is something that could be discussed with the Recreation Department.	

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	The Committee requested that Mary Creighton respond to Bonnie's deputation. Bonnie will send a summary of her deputation to Laura Gold who will forward it to Mary for response. Nory Takata suggested contacting the Fairgrounds for an opportunity to use their facilities.	Forward Bonnie Wong's inquiry to Mary Creighton - Laura
4. Off-leash Dog Parks	Linda Irvine, Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, and Nory Takata, Parks Planner, were in attendance to provide an overview of the current off-leash park locations and regulations. They advised that there is a new opportunity for an expansion of the off-leash dog park program in the Cornell area. The City's current policy and locations are inefficient. Therefore, the City will prepare a feasibility study for a location in the east end (Cornell) and it will determine what standards and necessary components are required for an updated off-leash park expansion. They explained that this initial meeting was to introduce the topic, discuss requirements, and involvement of the Animal Care Committee. The goal is to have something complete by 2017. They wanted to get it right the first time so that the model could be expanded to other communities in the City. Three potential models were shown to committee members, measuring from very low to very high maintenance structures. Staff together with the Committee will identify the core elements, and the "luxury" elements for an off-leash park for both dogs and pet owners. Sponsorship opportunities were discussed and are welcome, but staff advised that it should not be a requirement in order to proceed. The Committee suggested having off-leash parks in conservation areas. It was advised	

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	that these areas are not owned by the City and that they should be avoided as they are politically sensitive areas. The Committee discussed fundraising and donations for off-leash parks. It was noted that dog owners spend lots of money on their pets and would not be objective to spending money on this initiative. The Committee did feel strongly that accessibility is key, and not to isolate the parks. The idea would be to have more small parks throughout the City accessible to more people versus having larger parks that are harder for people to get to. It was also suggested that the City look at a fee for using the off-leash park, potentially a pass card to enter the park. The Committee mentioned waste and disposal is a potential concern and that the park would require frequent patrols to empty the disposal receptacles. The Committee would like to invite Linda and Nory to the next meeting to discuss the details further.	Invite Nory and Linda to next meeting to discuss the initiative in further detail - Laura
5. Business Arising From the Minutes	<u>Cupcake Day</u> It was advised that the OSPCA is hosting its annual Cupcake Day. If a Member is interested in participating, please let Christy know. <u>Events Calendar</u> Rhannon provided an updated events calendar. The Committee decided to attend the Unionville Festival.	

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	<u>Update on Dome Lids</u> Councillor Burke advised that the letters have been sent out regarding the impacts of dome lids on wildlife. The Committee agreed to send a letter to the Mayor thanking him for his support. <u>Tethering</u> There will be a few administrative amendments made to the Animal Control By-law and Christy agreed to look into adding a time limit on the tethering of animals.	Look into adding a time limit to tethering animals when reviewing the Animal Control By-law - Christy
6. Animal Control Program Update	a. <u>Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) Pilot Project Update</u> • Barn Cat Program-nothing to report at this time. • Feral Cat Seminar-Christy has been in contact with the Feral Cat Coalition in hopes of booking a spring seminar. She will let the Committee know the date when it is booked. b. <u>OSPCA Update</u> The OSPCA stats will be provided to members at the next meeting. c. <u>Fundraising for the Cat Adoption & Education Centre</u> The Committee agreed to meet for an hour after the next meeting to finalize the fundraising plan for the year. The online silent auction is approved and ready to go. Denielle, Shirley, Julie, & Janet are organizing the auction. The Committee will be using a free online site and will use a third party payment system. Christy will check with the Finance Department to see how the Committee can connect Paypal with the City's account. The auction will run for the month of June. The Committee is looking for auction items. There will be solicitation letters sent out to a number of contacts. The contact list will be sent to everyone and members	Let Committee know when seminar is booked - Christy Look into having the online auction site connected to the Committee's account - Christy

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	were asked to add any parties they believe will be interested in donating items. Auction funds raised will go to the ACC account and not CAEC account. Chase the Tail fundraiser is against raffle licensing guidelines and is not permitted. Discuss other ideas at the next meeting.	Discuss Chase and Tail Fundraiser and raffle licensing guidelines at next meeting - Committee
7. Events	The updated event dates were distributed to the Committee. More discussions will take place at future meetings, closer to event dates. Gino from Pet Valu at Warden would like to host an event for the committee and possible events include fundraiser, adoption event or both. The committee is to discuss how and what type of event they would like to have at the March meeting. If having an adoption event, the OSPCA should be invited. <u>Wildlife Licensing</u>	
8. New Business	The Committee asked about the licensing of wildlife removal companies. Esther advised that the Toronto Staff report did not support it due to cost, however the Licensing and Standards Committee voted to further investigate. An additional report and model of how they would be licensed will be brought back to Committee. Terri suggests the City of Markham observe what the City of Toronto does and investigate the issue further if necessary at that time. <u>Animal Care Committee Brochure</u> The Animal Care Committee brochure is out of date and needs updating. Pam and Terri will review and update the current brochure. Christy will send the original PDF to Pam and Terri. All changes made will require City approval prior to implementation. <u>Space for Adoption Fundraiser</u> Gino from PetValu (Warden and 7) would like to offer space for an adoption fundraiser.	Send original PDF on Animal Care Committee brochure to Pam and Terri - Christy Discuss adoption fundraiser with Pet Valu at next meeting

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	The OSPCA will attend the event. The Committee will discuss the event at the next meeting. <u>Animal Control By-Law</u> Terri asked about updating the Animal Control By-law. Christy suggested a review of the current by-law prior to amendments being proposed. Christy to provide the review at the April meeting. <u>Shark Fin Soup</u> Rhaiannon asked if Shark Fin Soup could be banned based on health regulations, and the food preparation issue. Christy advised that this is not something the City can enforce and that the Region controls health related legislation. <u>Trafficking of wildlife</u> Councillor Burke asked Christy to bring forth a letter from the Crimestoppers of York Region organization asking that Markham Council pass a motion to assist in an awareness program for the illegal removal of wildlife. The Committee passed the following motion: Moved By Esther Attard Seconded By Julie Chan That the Animal Care Committee receive the information from Crimestoppers York Region on encouraging residents to report illegal wildlife removal, and; That the Committee support the recommendation from Crimestoppers York Region on the matter, and;	- Committee Review Animal Control By-Law at April Animal Care Committee meeting - Christy

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	That Mayor and Council provide their support on the matter to Crimestoppers of York Region	
9. Adjournment	:The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:30pm	