

Animal Care Committee

January 21, 2015

Ontario Room

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Councillor Valerie Burke , Janet Andrews, Chair, Kathy Clark, Esther Attard, Julia Colangelo, Rhiannon Lane, Trudie Ross, and Pam Young

Staff: Christopher Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Control, Laura Gold, Committee Clerk

Members of the Public: Terri Daniels, and Youssef Pirasteh

Regrets: Furhait Kashmiri

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:35 p.m. with Janet Andrew presiding as Chair.	
2. Presentation on Banning Circuses	Rob Laidlaw, Executive Director, Campaigning for the Protection of Wild Animals, and Camile Labchuk, Director of Legal Advocacy, Animal Justice presented their research on banning circuses with animals. In the world the recent trend has been to move away from circuses with animals. Some of the reasons for this movement against animals in circus can be contributed to the following: (1) the lack of space circus animals are provided with; (2) the lack of exercise and restriction to the natural behaviour imposed on circus animals; (3) the physical abuse of circus animals; (4) the use of threat based management to control circus animals; (5) the lack of safety standards when showcasing wild animals in comparison to a zoo. Some of the Countries recently to ban animals in circuses include: Denmark; Finland; Chile; Peru; Ecuador; Hungary; and Brazil. In Canada, the provinces of British Columbia and Nova Scotia have regulated the use of animals in circuses. Furthermore, the City of Winnipeg prohibits any circuses or performances with wildlife. It achieved this by amending its Animal Control By-law. There was a discussion on a court decision regarding the City of Windsor that tried to ban animals in circuses by passing a by-law. The by-law was passed to protect the public welfare and was overturned by the courts. It was the legal opinion of the presenter that the by-law may have	

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	been upheld if it was passed to protect animal welfare. Another reason the judge overturned the by-law was because residents who wanted to go to circuses were not consulted. Municipalities that are planning to ban or regulate animals in circuses should: (1) be well prepared prior to presenting their proposal to Council; (2) have a well drafted by-law; (3) give the other sides a chance to be heard. It was the presenters' legal opinion that municipalities have the authority to ban circuses. They can do so by: • Banning all animal performances and circuses (done by the Winnipeg, Cobourg, and Sault Ste Marie) – easiest to enforce • Set very high standards for circuses (done by Nova Scotia and British Columbia) – enforcement can be onerous • Ban certain practices that circuses use (done by Los Angeles) – this makes it very difficult for circuses to come to town, as they need to use tools that inflict pain to control the animals. It was questioned what type of animal performances the City of Winnipeg banned. An example of the types of performances banned, include acts that go to birthday parties and fairs with exotic animals being showcased to the public. One of the reasons for the ban is because these types of acts typically have much lower safety standards than a zoo. There was also a discussion on the possibility of spreading disease from animal to humans or vice versa.	
3. Minutes	Moved by Julia Colangelo Seconded by Rhiannon Lane That the Minutes from the December 17, 2014 Animal Care Committee meeting be approved as presented. <u>Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting</u> Chris Alexander met with the new OSPCA Manager and the stats will continue to be presented in CARRIED	Set up meeting for the

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	the same format. Recent stats indicate a 20% reduction in the euthanasia rate of cats. Chris will set up a meeting with the Committee and the appropriate staff to discuss the Storefront.	Committee to meet with staff to discuss the storefront – Chris Alexander
4. Animal Control Report	<u>TNR</u> Members should email Chris Alexander if they want to attend the TNR Workshop being held on February 7, 2015. <u>Storefront</u> Christopher Alexander reported that both the capital and operating budgets for the storefront are over budget. Richmond Hill and Aurora were approached to see if they would be interested in participating in the project. They are considering the proposal. The City is also looking into naming rights. A Committee Member asked if the cages could be financed. Chris Alexander advised that even if the cost could be financed overtime the amount would still need to be included in the budget for the storefront.	Email Chris if you want to attend the TNR session – Chris Alexander
5. Events	There was no discussion on events.	
6. New Business	<u>Proclamations</u> Rhannon agreed to put forward the animal care proclamation for the year. <u>Wildlife Contract</u> The City is hoping to renew its wildlife contract with Toronto Wild Life with some minor changes to the contract. The current contract expires in March 2015.	
7. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:16 p.m.	