

Animal Care Committee

October 15, 2014

Ontario Room

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Janet Andrews, Chair, Esther Attard, Kathy Clark, Julia Colangelo, Furbait Kashmiri, Jody Greenlaw, 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 Danielle Duncan

Regrets: Councillor Valerie Burke

Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Opening Remarks	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:35 p.m. with Janet Andrews presiding as Chair.	
2. Approval of the Minutes	Moved by Jody Greenlaw Seconded by Trudie Ross That the September 17, 2014 Animal Care Committee Minutes be approved as presented. CARRIED <u>Review of Action Items</u> The Committee reviewed the action items from the last meeting. The following update was provided: • Ask the OSPCA's new Shelter Manager the questions from the last meeting regarding the OSPCA stats; • Look into issuing a press release on the improvement to Markham Wildlife Services in November or December 2014.	
3. Animal Control Program Update	Christopher Alexander provided the following Animal Control Program Update: <u>OSPCA</u> Chris Alexander reported that he is working with the Canada Cat Coalition to hold a feral cat workshop	

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	on February 7, 2015. The Committee asked if there would be a cost to attend the workshop. Chris considered charging a \$20 entrance fee, but agreed to waive the fee for Committee Members. <u>TNR</u> The Committee discussed the trapping of the feral cats on the IBM site on October 25, and 26, 2014. The City will provide two trucks, two officers, and 15 traps. The Committee discussed the logistics of the trapping session. Only a small amount of fur will be shaved from the cats when the OSPCA conducts the spaying and neutering procedure, as the cats are outdoor cats and given the time of year. The cats will be released the following Thursday, unless they have a medical issue. It was recommended that small french-fry boxes be used for the cats food. The water bowls used for the previous trapping session worked well. Christopher Alexander will email the Committee his plans. <u>Wildlife</u> A Member advised that the City needs to create awareness that it now has a wildlife contract with Toronto Wildlife, as most residents are not aware that this service agreement exist. This could be done by promoting the service on the City's page, in Markham Life, through social media, and by putting literature out at Information Markham. <u>Store Front</u> Stakeholders from the Thornhill Community Centre provided positive feedback on having the Animal Control Storefront at the Community Centre. Senior staff are very supportive of the project. The current issue is coming up with the money to build the storefront. The Committee could help with obtaining sponsorship funds to support the initiative. It was suggested that the City look at raising funds through obtaining sponsorship for the naming rights of the storefront. The naming rights for the storefront should be for a five year term.	

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	A report on the storefront will be brought back to Council in early 2015. <u>Adoption</u> The OSPCA brought two dogs up for adoption to the Stiver Mill on October 20, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.	
4. Events	The Committee discussed the upcoming events it is scheduled to attend.	
5. New Business	A. Pit Bulls in Markham Christopher Alexander reported that three pit bulls were found in Markham. None of the dogs have a history with the City or demonstrated a behavioural problem. The owners were devastated when told they were unable to have this breed of dog. One of owners is arguing that it is not a pit bull, as it is a half breed. The Committee was asked to provide input on this matter. A Committee Member advised that the City of Toronto had a similar case where an owner argued the dog was not a pit bull due to it being a half breed. The case was brought to court and the City lost. She recommended that the City refrain from pursuing the case. B. Dog Attack Christopher Alexander advised the Committee of an incident where a dog attacked another dog. C. Appointment Update The Committee Clerk advised that appointments to the Committee have been put on hold until after the election. The Clerk was requested to forward the Chair an application form to the Committee. D. Donations The Committee questioned if residents can get a tax receipt when making a donation over \$20 to the Animal Care Committee when renewing their animal license. They also wanted to ensure that	Forward application form – Laura Gold Look to see if a receipt can be obtained for

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	donations received from residents purchasing a Markham animal license at the OSPCA were being forwarded to the City. Christopher Alexander will look into this inquiry. E. Treasurer Report Kathy Clark, Treasurer submitted \$81.60 from donations the Committee received at events.	donations over \$20 to the Animal Care Committee – Christopher Alexander Look to see if donations made to the Animal Care Committee through the OSPCA are being forwarded to the City – Christopher Alexander
6. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:15 p.m.	