

Animal Care Committee

April 16, 2014

Ontario Room

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Councillor Valerie Burke, Janet Andrews, Chair, Esther Attard, Julia Colangelo Jody Greenlaw, Furhait Kashmiri , Rhiannon Lane, Trudie Ross and Pam Young	
Staff: Christopher Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Control and Laura Gold, Committee Clerk	
Members of the Public: Terri Daniels and Danielle Duncan	
Regrets: Kathy Clark	

Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Opening Remarks	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:36 p.m. with Janet Andrews presiding as Chair.	
2. Approval of the Minutes	Moved by Jody Greenlaw Seconded by Esther Attard That the March 19, 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. Christopher Alexander will email the Committee the City's policy on handling beavers.	Email the Committee the City's policy on the handling of beavers - Christopher Alexander
3. Events	A. Emergency Preparedness Week Update Sonia Singh, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator was in attendance to provide an update on the Emergency Preparedness Week event being held on May 10, 2014. The focus of the event will be on pet safety in an emergency. The following update was provided:	

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	Promotion of the Event • Fairchild Television • Rogers Television • The City Page • Posters • Markham Life • A Billboard • Councillor Burke's Newsletter It was requested that an electronic version of the poster promoting the event be emailed to the Committee. Giveaways for Event • Pet ID Kit • Can covers • Poop bag holders • Leashes Other Stores Participating in the Event Some of the other stores at the mall have demonstrated an interest in participating in the event or in offering giveaways for the event (e.g. Bath and Beyond will provide coupons and the bakery has offered to provide free bread and bagels for a year, as a raffle prize). Other Groups Participating in the Event • York Region Police will be participating in the event and may bring their canine unit; • The Insurance Bureau of Canada will be on site answering questions pertaining to emergencies. Emergency Preparedness Quiz and Raffle Patrons will have an opportunity to enter a raffle if they take an emergency preparedness quiz.	Email event poster to Committee – Sonia Singh

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	Scheduling & Logistics of Event The Committee set the schedule for the day of the event. The following tasks were assigned: • Markham table cloth – Laura will borrow from Corporate Communications • Tent – Denielle will purchase a tent to be used at outreach events, which she will be reimbursed for • Donation Box – Kathy will bring Event Coordinator Rhiannon volunteered to be the new event coordinator for the Committee. This role was previously held by a past Committee Member. Other Events The Committee will participate in the following events this spring, summer and fall: • Unionville Festival – will participate in the parade and have a booth • Markham Village Festival – will have a booth • Markham’s Farmers Market and Music Festival – Janet Andrews will request the charity table on June 20, 2014 the day of the Markham Music Festival • Thornhill Village Festival – will participate in the parade and have a booth on Councillor Burke’s driveway. It was noted that the City is hoping to promote Markham’s new pet loyalty cards at some of these events. The Committee will focus on promoting Markham’s proposed animal control storefront at these events.	Borrow table cloth from Corporate Communications – Laura Buy tent – Denielle Duncan Bring Donation Box to event – Kathy Clark Book the Markham Farmer’s Market charity table for the music festival – Janet Andrews
4. Animal Control Program Update	<u>Pet Loyalty Program</u> Christopher Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Control reported that Markham will be launching its pet loyalty program on May 1, 2014. The card will provide Markham residents who license their pet with discounts at many pet stores, vets and restaurants. The card will be the first of its kind in York Region. New businesses are still being added to the loyalty card. Councillor Burke agreed to advise residents of the new pet loyalty card in her newsletter. The City is hoping to do a press release regarding its new pet loyalty card.	

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	The Committee requested that a brochure be created with information on pet licensing, as this information is often requested when doing community outreach at events. <u>Toronto Wildlife Centre</u> The Committee asked if they could have some Toronto Wildlife Centre(TWC) brochures to distribute at community outreach events. <u>Trap Neuter and Return</u> The first trap neuter and return (TNR) session was a success. There were 11 cats that were trapped and neutered, of which 4 were pregnant. There were 2 cats that required additional medical attention due to unrelated medical issues. It was suggested that at the next TNR session smaller disposable bowls should be used to feed the cats, as the cats were knocking them over. Denielle Duncan will provide Christopher Alexander with photos from the TNR session. The Committee discussed its concerns with the cats on the IBM site. Some of the concerns included: (1) cats getting hit by cars crossing the small road on its site; (2) the feral cat colony growing, as the cats become impregnated; and (3) cats not leaving the site to go to the feeding site. The importance of being able to trap the cats on the IBM site to reduce the size of the feral cat colony was emphasized. The Committee requested that Trinela Cane call IBM to see if trapping can be done on its property. It was suggested that the phone call be followed up with a letter. Moved by Esther Attard Seconded by Pam Young That the Animal Care Committee request that Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services contact IBM about allowing the City's TNR project to be undertaken on its property; and, That the City working together with IBM to reduce the size of the feral cat colony on its property. *****Note: This matter has since been resolved; therefore, this action is no longer required. *****	Create licensing brochure – Christopher Alexander Provide Committee with TWC brochures – Christopher Alexander Provide Christopher with photos of TNR session – Denielle Duncan Request Trinela Cane to speak to IBM regarding trapping on its site – Christopher Alexander

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	The Committee discussed the possibility of having a second TNR session on May 9, 2014. The Committee hoped to be able to trap the cats on the IBM site on this day. The OSPCA will be able to do the aftercare this time. The Committee committed to assisting with the TNR project on May 9 on the condition the OSPCA will be doing the aftercare. Christopher Alexander will proceed to work with the OSPCA to plan a second TNR session on May 9, 2014. Details regarding the TNR session will be circulated to the Committee by email. The Committee suggested that the OSPCA staff attend a workshop on feral cats on May 4, 2014. It could also arrange for the workshop to be held at the OSPCA in New Market on a different day. <u>OSPCA</u> The City's contract with the OSPCA to provide animal control services has been signed and is now in place. It was confirmed that the contract is a public document. Christopher Alexander was in the process of updating the OSPCA stats on the website. The new OSPCA Manager will come to the May or June Animal Care Committee meeting to provide an update on the OSPCA's operations. <u>Adoption</u> There was no update provided, as staff resources are being devoted to the establishment of the proposed animal control store front in Markham at this time. <u>Storefront</u> Issues are still being resolved with respect to the establishment of an animal control storefront in Markham. There are currently some concerns with having the animal control storefront in a community centre, some of which include: odour; allergies; getting recreational staff to buy into the concept; getting the community to buy into the concept and cost. The capital cost of building the storefront is also higher than anticipated; for example the cages that will need to be installed in the	Email May 9 TNR details to Committee - Christopher

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	storefront are much more costly than anticipated. The Committee discussed whether it will contribute some of the \$30K it raised through fundraising for an animal shelter in Markham towards the animal control storefront. Some of the members thought the funds should be saved for an animal shelter and others thought that all or a portion of the funds should be put forward to show its support for the storefront concept. A suggestion was also made to hold a dogathon to raise funds for the storefront. No decision on this matter was made at this time. The decision was deferred to a future meeting where more concrete information about the storefront is available.	
5. New Business	The Committee discussed the correspondence "Canadians encouraged to 'tie one on' to Support Animal Adoption". The article was about teal ribbons that can be purchased in support of animal adoption. A Member suggested giving teal ribbons out at community outreach events when people make a donation	
6. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:11 p.m.	