

**Animal Care Committee**

**January 15, 2014**

**Ontario Room**

**5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Attendance:** Janet Andrews, Chair, Councillor Valerie Burke, Esther Attard, Kathy Clark, Jody Greenlaw, Rhiannon Lane and Trudie Ross

**Staff:** Laura Gold, Committee Clerk

**Members of the Public:** Terri Daniels and Denielle Duncan

**Regrets:** Julia Colangelo , Furbait Kashmiri and Pam Young

| Agenda Item             | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Action Item                                                                                                               |
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| <b>1. Call to Order</b> | The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:30 p.m. with Janet Andrews presiding as Chair.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>3. Minutes</b>       | <p>Moved by Jody Greenlaw<br/>Seconded by Kathy Clark</p> <p>The Minutes from the Animal Care Committee Meeting held on December 18, 2013 be approved as presented.</p> <p><b>Review of Action Items</b><br/><u>Canadian Federation of Humane Societies</u><br/>The Committee reviewed the action items from the previous meeting. The Committee Clerk was requested to remind Christopher Alexander to email the Committee the stats from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies.</p> | <p>Remind Christopher Alexander to email the Committee the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies stats – Laura Gold</p> |

| Agenda Item                            | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Action Item                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|                                        | <p><u>Emergency Planning</u></p> <p>The Committee Clerk was requested to provide the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with the contact information of the Animal Care Committee Members who volunteered to assist with the planning of the 2014 Emergency Preparedness week. The focus of the 2014 Emergency Preparedness week is on educating pet owners on what to do with their pets in an emergency.</p> <p>It was advised that Markham's warming centres during the ice storm were pet friendly. This was a success and some residents brought their pets.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Provide Sonia Singh with the contact information of the Animal Care Committee Members who will be assisting with the 2014 Emergency Preparedness Week planning and undertaking – Laura Gold</p> |
| <p><b>2. Animal Control Update</b></p> | <p><u>OPSCA</u></p> <p>It was noted that the OPSCA currently has very few pets on its website for adoption, as typically there are many pets surrendered at this time of the year. The OPSCA also had volunteer positions posted on its website for the first time in a long time.</p> <p><u>Storefront</u></p> <p>There was a discussion on the proposed location for the animal control storefront at the Thornhill Community Centre. The location was described as a large space that is glassed in, but that is somewhat hidden within the Community Centre. Therefore, clear signage would be required if the City decided to proceed with this location for the storefront. One of the benefits of having the storefront at this location is that it is on public transit and that it is located in the South-West end of Markham, which is the furthest area of Markham from the New Market OPSCA animal shelter.</p> <p>It is the Committee's understanding that the animal control storefront would likely only be open a few days a week to start. The Committee questioned what would happen to the pets when the storefront is closed. It was suggested that they may be brought back to the OPSCA, as the OPSCA will be responsible for providing the pets. This matter will be clarified with staff.</p> | <p>Provide clarification on what would happen to the pets when the storefront is closed – Christopher Alexander</p>                                                                                |

| Agenda Item      | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Action Item                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|                  | <p>Currently, staff are proposing that there will be one staff person responsible for managing the storefront and for overseeing all of its volunteers. The Committee had started to look for volunteers to work at the storefront, as the storefront will be so heavily reliant on volunteers. Some interest in volunteering at the storefront has already been expressed by Markham residents.</p> <p><u>Trap Neuter and Return Program</u></p> <p>There was a discussion on the need to trap the cats at the IBM site, as the cats need to either be re-located or managed. Currently, the cats are regularly being fed at an offsite location by rescue groups. The cats have found shelter in some bushes and shrubs where hay has been placed to keep the cats warm. It was not known if any of the cats were lost in the ice storm.</p> <p>The Chair agreed to speak with Christopher Alexander about moving forward with the trapping of the cats at the IBM site. The Committee discussed sending a letter to IBM on behalf of the Animal Care Committee on why the cats need to be managed. The Chair agreed to prepare a letter on this matter and Terri Daniels agreed to provide sample letters to the Chair.</p> <p><u>Wildlife Control By-Law</u></p> <p>The Chair will follow up with Christopher Alexander on the status of the proposed wildlife control by-law.</p> | <p>Speak with Chris Alexander about the cats at the IBM site – Janet Andrews</p> <p>Follow up with Chris Alexander on the status of the proposed wildlife control by-law – Janet Andrews</p>       |
| <b>3. Events</b> | <p><u>Events</u></p> <p>Rhiannon Lane agreed to compile a list of the following: the dates of 2014 events the Committee plans on attending; and the key 2014 dates the Committee would like to proclaim. The dates the Committee would like to proclaim will be submitted to the Clerk's Office.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Provide the Committee Clerk with following: (1) the dates of the 2014 events the Committee would like to attend; and (2) the key dates the Committee would like to proclaim – Rhiannon Lane</p> |

| Agenda Item                   | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Action Item                                                                                                                                        |
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| <p><b>4. New Business</b></p> | <p><u>Horse Slaughter Update</u><br/>The Committee reviewed the resolution passed by the City of Kingston Council in support of Bill C-322 regarding the slaughtering of horses for human consumption.</p> <p>Moved by Rhiannon Lane<br/>Seconded by Jody Greenlaw</p> <p>That the Animal Care Committee request that the resolution approved by the City of Kingston Council on December 17, 2013 regarding the slaughtering of horses for human consumption be circulated to Members of Council for information purposes.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Circulate the resolution passed by the City of Kingston Council regarding the slaughtering of horses for human consumption –<br/>Laura Gold</p> |
| <p><b>5. Deputation</b></p>   | <p>Dave Skowronski provided a deputation to the Committee on his application for an exemption to have a prohibited animal. The request was to have a red tail hawk which would be kept in a large backyard enclosure. The red tail hawk is being requested to start a business to deter seagulls. Golf courses and waste management companies typically have contracts with a falconer to deter seagulls.</p> <p>The Committee asked the following questions:</p> <p><b>How can you ensure that the hawk will not hurt people?</b></p> <p>The bird will be highly trained and will not attack people.</p> <p><b>Where will the bird be trained?</b></p> <p>The bird will be trained on a farm in Stouffville and will be flown on most days of the week excluding the winter months when it is too cold for the bird to fly.</p> |                                                                                                                                                    |

| Agenda Item | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Action Item |
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|             | <p><b>What kind of neighbourhood do you live in?</b></p> <p>The applicant lived in a single detached home with a large backyard in the McCowan and Bullock area.</p> <p><b>Would the hawk be noisy?</b></p> <p>Red tail hawks are quiet natured birds. The only time the bird may make some noise is when it is being fed.</p> <p><b>Where will you get the red tail hawk from and are you satisfied with how the birds are kept by the breeder?</b></p> <p>The bird will be purchased from Golden Creek Bird Farm who breeds several types of birds. The farm is located on 100 acres of land and the birds are bred in a bird friendly environment.</p> <p>A Past Committee Member confirmed that the Golden Creek Bird Farm was a reputable farm for breeding birds.</p> <p><b>Will you practice falconry as a full time job and will you later want more birds to expand your business?</b></p> <p>The applicant would like to practice falconry full time in the future, but still had several years of training prior to being able to accept contracts.</p> <p>The future expansion of the applicant's business would be based on the number of contracts he could obtain. The applicant would need to acquire more red tail hawks to grow his business. It was clarified that to acquire another red tail hawk in the future that the applicant would need to submit a new application for an exemption to have a prohibited animal in Markham. The applicant envisioned one day owning a farm to house his red tail hawks.</p> |             |

| Agenda Item           | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Action Item                                                                              |
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|                       | <p><b>Do you have your hunting license?</b></p> <p>The applicant confirmed that he has his hunting license and that it is required to be a falconer. The applicant advised that the red tail hawk would not be used for hunting.</p> <p><b>Who would take care of the bird if you were on holiday?</b></p> <p>The bird would be cared for by his mentor.</p> <p><b>Have you spoken to your neighbours about having a red tail hawk?</b></p> <p>The applicant had plans to speak to his neighbours, but had not yet had the opportunity to do so. It was noted that the City would also be notifying his neighbours regarding his request to have a prohibited animal.</p> <p>The Committee requested that Dave Skowronski come back to the February, 19, 2014 Animal Care Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. to further discuss his request to have a red tail hawk. This was being requested as Christopher Alexander was not in attendance at the meeting to provide his input on the matter.</p> | <p>Invite Dave Skowronski to the February Animal Care Committee Meeting – Laura Gold</p> |
| <b>6. Adjournment</b> | The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:06 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                          |