

Animal Care Committee
October 16, 2013
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Councillor Valerie Burke, Janet Andrews, Chair, Esther Attard, Vice-Chair, Kathy Clark, Jody Greenlaw, Furhail Kashmiri, Rhiannon Lane and Pam Young

Staff: Martha Pettit, Deputy Clerk, Chris Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Services and Laura Gold, Committee Clerk

Members of the Public: Terri Daniels, Denielle Duncan, Barry McKay and Liz White

Regrets: Julia Colangelo and Caroline Lane

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:31 p.m. with Janet Andrews presiding as Chair.	
2. Approval of the Minutes	Moved by Jody Greenlaw Seconded by Kathy Clark That the Minutes of the September 18, 2013 Animal Care Committee be approved as presented. <u>Review of Action Items</u> The following updates on the action items were provided: • Staff will not make a brochure on Markham's animal control storefront until Council formally approves the concept; • Currently, Markham does not micro chip the cats that it traps neuters and returns; • Currently, development charges cannot be used towards the displacement of	CARRIED

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	wildlife due to development; • A letter of appreciation was sent by the Chair to the store keeper on Main Street Unionville for caring for a family of cats.	
3. Animal Control Program Update	A. <u>Update on Store Front</u> Martha Pettit, Deputy Clerk and Christopher Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Services were in attendance to provide an update on Markham's animal control storefront. Videos of the animal control storefronts visited by staff were displayed to the Committee. Staff believed that the critical success factors of the animal control storefronts it visited included: being in a prime location; having reduced rent; having dedicated volunteers; being organized; having procedures in place; having incidental customers; and partnering with the local OSPCA. Staff ranked the location options for Markham's animal control storefront as follows: 1) indoor mall; 2) community centre; 3) commercial strip mall; 4) vacant municipal facility. Staff will look at where most Markham pet owners are residing when making a decision regarding the storefront location. Staff are looking at how many hours the storefront will be open. The City may start with having the storefront open a few days a week. Staff advised that they would need a strong commitment from this committee to assist with the animal control storefront. The Chair advised that at Markham Fair the Committee gathered a list of residents who would be interested in volunteering at the Markham's animal control storefront. They also meet a woman who teaches animal safety to children who was willing to volunteer her expertise. Another resident offered to help raise funds towards the project by raffling off cakes with a picture of the winners pets on them. The Committee suggested that the City should focus on increasing its pet licensing revenue to raise more funds towards this project. The messaging on the license	

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	renewals should specify how the funds are being used, as this will help generate more revenue if the funds are being used to support this project. The Committee also suggested looking for sponsors to support the project. Staff will have more information on this project at the next meeting. The Committee thought the Thornhill Community Centre was the ideal location for the animal control storefront when considering all factors. Staff asked the Committee if it would consider putting the funds it raised towards the animal control storefront in Markham. A report will be brought back to the General Committee this fall on this matter. <u>B. Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) Pilot Project Update</u> Staff are working together with the OSPCA and Toronto Wildlife to come up with a wildlife model that will enhance Markham's existing wildlife services without duplicating work. A Member questioned if Toronto Wildlife would be responsible for providing statistics to the City of Markham if it is contracted to provide Markham's wildlife services. Staff confirmed that it would be required to provide statistics as part of its contract. <u>C. Wildlife Removal Specialist</u> Staff will meet with the City of Toronto and Brad Gates on the licensing of wildlife removal specialist tomorrow. Public consultation sessions with key stakeholders will be held in November 2013. A handbook with guidelines and procedures is being put together. The training of the wildlife specialist will be a component of the licensing. The City will bring forward a report to the General Committee on the	

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	licensing of the wildlife specialist in the New Year. D. <u>Adoption Update</u> No report was provided. E. <u>OSPCA Update</u> No report was provided.	
4. Events	<u>Markham Fair</u> The Treasurer's report from Markham Fair will be provided at the next meeting <u>Santa Claus Parade and the Unionville Christmas Parade</u> The Committee will participate in the Santa Claus Parade and the Unionville Christmas Parade. An email with the event information will be sent to the Committee.	Send email with the event information to the Committee – Janet Andrews
5. New Business	<u>Backyard Dogs</u> There was a discussion on a pet owner who leaves their dog out in the backyard. Neighbours have complained that the dog is often barking and under distress. The dog cannot be taken from the pet owner, as the owner has not broken any by-laws. The OSPCA has visited the pet owner to educate the pet owner on caring for their dog, but this has not helped. The Committee was asked for its feedback on the matter. The Committee suggested that repeated visits from the OSPCA should be made to educate the pet owner on caring for the dog, as repeated visits may improve the situation. Christopher Alexander was also requested to visit the pet owner. <u>OSPCA Statistics</u> Liz White was in attendance to review the OSPCA statistics that were obtained from a recent freedom of information request from the City of Markham. Some discrepancies in the statistics were found. Staff were aware of these discrepancies	Visit pet owner – Christopher Alexander

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	and were in the process of resolving this issue with the OSPCA. Staff will not post these statistics on the City's website until they have been corrected. The revised 2012 OSPCA statistics were displayed to the Committee. The Committee questioned if the information could be broken down even further. Moved by Kathy Clark Seconded by Rhiannon Lane That the Animal Care Committee thank Liz White for her analysis of the City of Markham's OPSCA statistics; and, That the Animal Care Committee express its concerns regarding the OSPCA's reporting of the intake and outcome of Markham animals and that this be strongly addressed in the new OSPCA contract and oversight. CARRIED	
6. Date of the Next Meeting	November 20, 2013 - 5:30 p.m., Ontario Room	
7. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:25 p.m.	