



P R O C E E D I N G S

Of a Public Meeting to discuss an
Amendment to Zoning By-law #160-2004
(Animal Shelters)
Monday, April 21, 2008 - City Council Chambers
4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor L. Compton
Councillor W. Cuthbert
Councillor D. McCann
Councillor R. McMillan
Councillor A. Poirier
Councillor C. Van Wallegghem
Bill E. Preisentanz, CAO
Jeffrey Port, Planner
Joanne L. McMillin, Clerk

REGRETS: Councillor C. Drinkwalter

Mayor Compton advised this is a continuation of a public meeting in accordance with Section 34 of the Planning Act to consider an amendment to the City of Kenora Comprehensive Zoning By-law.

Mayor Compton asked the Clerk to advise when the Notice was advertised for the continuation of this meeting.

Ms McMillin advised the notice appeared in the Daily Miner and News on Wednesday, March 26, 2008.

Jeff Port was asked to describe any new or additional information regarding the amendment. Mr. Port advised there is no new information to present at today's meeting.

Mayor Compton advised that any person may express his or her views of the amendment and a record will be kept of all comments.

Mayor Compton then asked if anyone wished to speak in favour of the amendment with any new information or to speak to the amendment if they did not have an opportunity at the March 17 meeting.

Alex Clark advised he wished to speak in favour of the amendment on behalf of residents affected by the former OSPCA location, at 605 4th Street, Keewatin. He indicated that while in favour of the amendment, they are not in favour of the location of the facility. He then played a short sound clip of the noise of the dogs barking from this facility and that at times it would continue for up to 20 minutes. Mr. Clark explained he is not against the shelter being located in the community but not in the existing location, noting that Council should pursue a rural or unorganized area.

Mr. Clark explained that since closure of the former OSPCA in February of 2008, the number of stray dogs in the neighborhood surrounding the facility has diminished to almost zero. From the records of Kenora Animal Enforcement, the number of complaints of stray dogs running at large in the community during 2006 was 8 animals. In the same period for 2007, the number of stray dog complaints was 71.

Mr. Clark noted Mr. Port has also been provided with a copy of a letter from several residents in the neighbourhood who are also in favour of the amendment.

Judy Korecsky advised Mayor Compton and Members of Council she is in favour of the Zoning By-law amendment.

On behalf of Sharon Smith, Jeff Port read her submission for the public record as being in favour of the amendment.

Further, Mr. Port read from a petition submitted by various residents in support of the amendment which is to be added into the public record. He also read a letter from six residents in the West Bay area in favour of the amendment and while they're not opposed to a shelter in the city, they do not agree it should stay at its current location.

Mayor Compton then asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition to the amendment.

Chris Rodgers, whose presentation was circulated earlier for the public record, came forward to speak against the Zoning By-law Amendment. He spoke to the problem of stray companion animals, outlining methods used in controlling the movement and number of companion animals which is referred to as companion animal population management. He indicated that Rescue North staff is committed to working with law enforcement and City Officials to improve the safety of the community.

Mr. Rodgers also referred to the positive partnerships that have been developed with local communities and other welfare organizations. He added that animal control is not only about reacting to animal by-law infractions, but being positive ambassadors for our city.

In closing Mr. Rodgers stated that Rescue North is a 'turn-key' animal shelter ready to provide whatever assistance the City requires, and that in moving forward we must recognize the need for animal welfare in Kenora's animal control as well as partnerships with the neighbours.

Stan Phinney, whose presentation was circulated earlier for the public record, then advised he wished to speak against the Zoning By-law Amendment, and circulated a copy of a new design for the shelter which indicates they intend to put a soundproof roof on the outside run.

Mr. Phinney referred to the number of police reports mentioned earlier regarding complaints about the facility and put out a challenge to anyone in being able to hear any noise from the facility in West Bay.

Mr. Phinney recommends to Council that the zoning criteria for Light Industrial are correct and should not be changed. He believes common sense has to be displayed and he and Rescue North need to move ahead with this facility, especially at a time when

jobs are scarce. The 10 to 15 full time jobs and multiple part time positions they will create is of extreme importance.

In closing Mr. Phinney stated Kenora should revamp its Animal Control By-laws and that Rescue North would be willing to work with any Committee as they do in other communities to bring the by-laws in line with that of the province.

Mayor Compton asked if there were any questions. As there were no questions, Mayor Compton declared the public meeting closed at 4:55 p.m.