



Animal Welfare Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday, December 10, 2009

1:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

Action



Present: Councillor W. Cuthbert, Chair
Councillor D. McCann
Chris Madison, It's a Dog's Life
Celynn Alcock, Cat Shelter
Gloria Alcock, Rescue North
Crystal Friesen, Public-at-Large
B. Preisentanz, CAO
J. McMillin, City Clerk
R. Perchuk, Operations Manager
K. Robertson, Chief Building Official
J. Simpson, Animal Control Officer
Celia Christensen, Kenora Veterinary Clinic

Regrets: O.P.P. Representation

A. Public Information Notices

N/A

B. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof

1) On Today's Agenda

2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance

There were none declared.

C. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by G. Alcock, Seconded by C. Madison, & Carried:

THAT the Minutes of the last Committee meeting held November 17, 2009 be confirmed as written and filed.

D. Deputations:-

N/A

Councillor W. Cuthbert, Chair, called the meeting to order.

1. Bear Wise Program – 2009 Stats

The following stats for the 2009 bear trapping season were reviewed:-

Total calls for service	110
Trap sets	21
Bears Relocated	7
Bear Escape trap	1
Bears Ear Tagged	1 tagging by MNR staff
Bears Immobilized	1 MNR Bear Wise Staff
Bears Dispatched	1 MNR Staff dispatched bear

It was explained that more bears would have been ear tagged but due to manpower shortages and Officers not having the chemical immobilization training and the requirement for "Lethal Force" to be present during this procedure, only one (1) bear was tagged. It is hoped that in the 2010 Bear season all bears trapped within the City will be ear tagged to determine if they are returning to the area. To enable this to happen, changes will have to be made to By-law #41-2001 - Discharge of Firearms and a policy/procedure for Officer training and handling of firearms developed for this purpose (both of which are in the works).

A discussion ensued on commercial establishments not securing their garbage and/or grease pits. It was mentioned reference could be included in the by-law to the way in which garbage containers and grease pits have to be secured in order to deter bears and making food establishments more accountable; it was suggested this could perhaps become part of the by-law through a 'set fine' process so we have some type of enforcement in the by-law since it is an issue. It was mentioned this type of control could be by time period in terms of exempting winter months when bears are not such a concern.

A suggestion was made to possibly using a paintball technique rather than ear tagging, however paintball paint is not permanent so the paint would eventually come off the bear. It was agreed that certain ear tagging methods would allow bears to be distinguished from City and the O.P.P. in terms of statistics.

2. Review of Draft Animal Control By-law

The Committee then started a review of the First Draft of the Animal Control By-law, as prepared by Operations. Committee reviewed up to and including Section 3.4 on page 6 of the by-law. It was agreed to continue its review at next month's meeting following which Rick will make the suggested changes today and will forward it to our Solicitor for comment.

RPerchuk

3. Licencing and Fees

A lengthy discussion ensued on licencing and fees and how these will relate to the new by-law. It was mentioned other municipal by-laws should be checked in terms of comparable fees/set fines. Committee also discussed the number of dogs in various areas of the city by zoning designation and whether or not this should change or remain the same, i.e. rural versus urban numbers such as 4 versus 2.

Rick advised he will send out an email link to the City's zoning maps so Committee can view the various zoning designations within the municipal boundaries to better illustrate where these numbers are represented.

RPerchuk

Committee discussed the concern of the number of 'additional' dogs that may result when citizens foster dogs from say It's a Dog's Life, etc., and this should be addressed in the by-law. The Clerk will look at attempting to find similar by-laws from other municipalities with respect to a fostering mechanism and how this might be policed.

JMcMillin

4. Other Business

Rick Perchuk was asked if there had been any arrangements put in place as yet with the O.P.P. regarding their receiving a key to the City Animal Facility so they can impound strays on the weekends. Rick responded that it is hoped this will be in place soon and that he will report on how things are working for the January meeting.

RPerchuk

5. Next Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. – Council Chambers.

6. The meeting closed at 2:45 p.m.

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