

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Report

The 7th Meeting of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
August 5, 2021
Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting - during the COVID-19 Emergency

Attendance PRESENT: M. Blosh (Acting Chair), A. Hames, and M. Toplack;
A. Pascual (Committee Clerk).

ABSENT: W. Brown and P. Lystar.

ALSO PRESENT: H. Chapman, M. McBride, and B. Westlake-Power.

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM; it being noted that the following members were in remote attendance: M. Blosh, A. Hames, and M. Toplack.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Consent

2.1 6th Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 6th Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on July 8, 2021, was received.

2.2 Letter of Resignation - M. Szabo

That the letter of resignation from M. Szabo BE RECEIVED.

3. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

3.1 Sub-Committee Update

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee held a general discussion with respect to the Sub-Committee update.

4. Items for Discussion

4.1 Fireworks and Impacts on Wildlife and Pets

That the matter with respect to Fireworks and Impacts on Wildlife and Pets BE REFERRED to a Sub-Committee; it being noted that the Sub-Committee will report back to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee;

it being further noted that the communication from V. Anber, with respect to this matter, was received.

4.2 Educational Materials on Impacts of Fishing Hooks and Line

That the matter with respect to Educational Materials on Impacts of Fishing Hooks and Line BE DEFERRED to the next Animal Welfare Advisory Committee meeting.

4.3 Per Home Limit on Foster Animals - Update

That it BE NOTED that the verbal update from H. Chapman, Manager, Community Compliance and Animal Services, with respect to the per home limit on foster animals, was received.

4.4 AWAC Budget

That the matter with respect to the AWAC Budget BE DEFERRED to the next Animal Welfare Advisory Committee meeting.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 PM.

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Report

The 6th Meeting of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
July 8, 2021
Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting - during the COVID-19 Emergency

Attendance PRESENT: W. Brown (Chair), M. Blosh, A. Hames, and M. Toplack; A. Pascual (Committee Clerk).

ABSENT: P. Lystar and M. Szabo.

ALSO PRESENT: M. McBride, O. Katolyk, and B. Westlake-Power.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM; it being noted that the following members were in remote attendance: M. Blosh, W. Brown, A. Hames, and M. Toplack.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Consent

2.1 The 5th Report of the Animal Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 5th Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee from its meeting held on June 3, 2021, was received.

3. Items for Discussion

3.1 Fishing Line Impacts to Wildlife

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee held a discussion with respect to fishing line impacts to wildlife in the City of London; it being noted that additional information will be brought forward to a future meeting with respect to this matter.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 PM.

Subject: [EXTERNAL] AWAC Group Involvement

Hi Audrey.

Please note that I am leaving the AWAC advisory group. Please pass this along to the committee.

Within the current dynamics of the group, I feel that I am unable to help animals to the degree I wanted when I originally joined. I wish the committee all the best in its future endeavours.

Marg Szabo

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The Corporation of the City of London

August 4, 2021

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

C/O: J. Bunn, Committee Secretary, City Clerk's Office

Dear Committee members

Re: "Fireworks and Impacts on Wildlife and Pets"

We are K&H Fireworks, headquartered in Windsor, Ontario. We are the company that does the majority of professional displays in London and are hired by the City for July 1st and New Year's Eve to entertain the citizens of London.

There are also people in London who have been in the fireworks business for decades. Responsibly, legally, conducting business and bringing safe, sane, Federally authorized products to the general public, people who make a living through the sale of this product.

When a neighbourhood is terrorized by a vicious dog, Bylaws, the Police and The Humane Society become involved and deal with that one dog. When a dog left outside all day, in the heat, without food or water, again the responsible authorities become involved. When this same dog barks for hours at a time, disturbing entire the neighbourhood, again it is dealt with through Bylaws and enforcement. There is not an immediate call to ban dogs within the City limits or to review the impacts of dogs on the residents of cities, attendees of events or users of public parks.

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Our point in all of this is that consumer fireworks are a legal product. Cities have rules and regulations surrounding fireworks and the responsible fireworks vendors and users follow the regulations. The problem this year is everything and everyone have been impacted by Covid. 16 months of lockdowns, gathering limits, lack of public displays has led to an increased use of backyard fireworks on the legal holidays. People who've never used fireworks before were looking for a way to entertain their families and celebrate the holidays safely and within the Provincial health guidelines. For those who do not follow the City regulations regarding fireworks, Bylaw enforcement and fines too would be a reasonable solution.

Fireworks can now be purchased through the internet and shipped all over the country. London is also surrounded by First Nation Lands and stores that legally, sell fireworks year round. Fireworks are accessible.

These extraordinary times have created a myriad of issues new to all of us. The overwhelming solution to many of the new issues is the ending of the major upheaval in our lives. Fireworks use, on the legal holidays, as per bylaws has really not been a major issue prior to this upheaval.

In the meanwhile we respectfully suggest and request that when reviewing this issue in your Committee and recommendations made to Council, you consider the points we have raised. Should you wish, we can be available to discuss anything or answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter.

Yours truly,



Victor Anber
Owner: K&H Distributing Fireworks