

2ND REPORT OF THE
ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on September 6, 2012 commencing at 4:10 p.m.

PRESENT: S. C. Rans (Acting Chair), D. Fortney, E. Gerrow, W. MacKay, J. McFadden, A. Pappmehl, M. Shepherd-Ennis, V. VanLinden, and J. Martin, Secretary.

ALSO PRESENT: A. Quinn and J. Riddell.

REGRETS: B. Barr, L. Jackson, M. Puzanov, B. Saylor and M. Warder.

I YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

Wildlife Sub-
Committee

1. (C) That the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC) **BE REQUESTED** to work cooperatively with the Animal Welfare Advisory Committees (AWAC) Wildlife Sub-committee with respect to potential recommendations concerning the review of the protection of the Stanton Drain wetland and the delay of the proposed drainage works; it being noted that :

- (a) Council has previously passed resolutions with respect to beaver activity in the vicinity of infrastructure;
- (b) fall is not an optimal time to move beavers;
- (c) EEPAC has identified the area to be an ecological wetland; and,
- (d) the Ministry of Environment has identified the need for an updated Environmental Assessment noting that the last assessment was completed 10 years ago;

it being further noted; the AWAC reviewed and received the attached letter dated August 24, 2012 from S. Rans, AWAC with respect to this matter.

Guardian
Campaign

2. (4) That the following actions be taken with respect to the Guardian Campaign:

- (a) The Corporation of the City of London **BE REQUESTED** to discontinue the use of the term "owner" and alternatively use the term "guardian" in all references, in all documents referring to people and their pets: and,
- (b) the Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to report back to the appropriate Standing Committee with respect to the documentation that will require amendments to reflect the change noted in a), above.

Captive Animals

3. (9) That the following actions be taken with respect to captive animal issues:

- (a) that the Mayor **BE REQUESTED** to write a letter expressing concern with respect to the Storybook seals currently at Marineland and requesting these seals be re-homed; and,
- (b) that Civic Administration **BE REQUESTED** to prepare a timeline with respect to the provision of grassed grazing areas for the captive animals at Storybook Gardens; it being noted that the AWAC heard a verbal update from J. Riddell, Manager, Storybook Gardens with respect to the remaining captive animals housed at Storybook Gardens; it being further noted J. Riddell will provide an update on the remaining captive animals at a future meeting.

II YOUR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1st Report of the AWAC 4. (1) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) reviewed and received the 1st Report of the AWAC from its meeting held August 2, 2012; it being noted that the AWAC referred clause 7 to the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee for consideration; it being further noted that in the AWAC Wildlife Sub-committee Report, the word "RFP" was corrected to read "RFQ" and the word "Sarnia Road" was corrected to read "Gainsborough Road".
- Resignation of Debbie Lafebre 5. (2) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) received and noted a Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held July 24 and 25, 2012 with respect to the resignation of Debbie Lafebre from the AWAC;
- Do Not Feed the Wildlife Signage 6. (3) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) received a verbal update from its Committee Secretary and held a general discussion with respect to educating the community on the dangers of feeding the wildlife; it being noted that V. VanLinden, AWAC, was requested to invite a representative from the McIlwraith Field Naturalists to a future meeting to discuss their efforts to educate the community with respect to this matter.
- Animal Control By-law – Limitation of Pets Per Household 7. (5) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) reviewed and received a report from V. VanLinden with respect to a proposed recommendation to remove the limit on numbers of cats and dogs allowed in foster homes, when supervised by Animal Rescue Groups, within the Municipality of London; it being noted the committee members are requested to review the report and provide comments to V. VanLinden for the next meeting.
- RedRover Responders Workshop 8. (7) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) received a verbal update from M. Shepherd-Ennis with respect to the RedRover Responders Workshop.
- National Feral Cat Day 9. (8) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) held a general discussion with respect to the National Feral Cat Day; it being noted the following actions be taken with respect to this program:
- (a) the Committee Secretary was requested to contact J. Stanford with respect to the 2011 "She Deserves to Live" poster campaign; and,
 - (b) V. VanLinden, AWAC, was requested to contact the London Transit Corporation (LTC) with respect to the promotion of National Feral Cat Day on the LTC buses.
- Deferred Matters 10. That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) deferred consideration of the following items to a future AWAC meeting:
- (a) (6) discussion with respect to the Animal Control By-law – Ban of Retail Outlet Sale of Companion Animals;
 - (b) (10) discussion with respect to ear tipping; and,
 - (c) (11) discussion with respect to a fois gras ban.
- Next Meeting 11. That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee will hold its next meeting on October 4 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

August 24, 2012

Dear Mr. Braam, Acting Executive Director, Planning, Environmental, and Engineering Services

Thank you for our meeting last week. We came away feeling quite positive. We learned new details about the Stanton Drain reconstruction (eg. that the only way to build the SWM would be to deepen the channel by 2 metres). According to Berta, this would make it impossible for the beaver to remain. That being said, she put forward her plan to have the beaver live-trapped and request that the MNR make an exception to the 1km. release rule. As we discussed later, there are very few trappers with the skill to live-trap beavers successfully and we have some names for you should this become necessary. We are continuing to look for solutions that allow the beavers to stay.

It is a concern that the ecological problems related to the construction of the SWM have not been addressed in the current design. Yet these issues were identified in 2011 by the Parrish report, Parks Planning, and EEPAC. The impact on this significant natural heritage wetland is critical. The Environment Impact Study (EIS) appears to have been approved without considering or solving ecosystem issues. For example, a flood conveyance channel does not in any way replace the benefits lost through the destruction of a natural channel. For many of the same reasons that concern us, AECOM designed the SWM using constraints they had misgivings about and EEPAC was not in support of the recommendations and conclusions of the EIS. In addition, Environment and Parks Planning disagreed with the net effects assessment in their Oct. 24, 2011 memo to Billy Haklander. While the SWM facility may meet the requirements for improved water quality and quantity it is at the expense of the natural heritage system. Therefore the EIS did not demonstrate "no negative impact" even with the proposed mitigation and compensation required by the Provincial Policy Statement (2005) and the City of London Policy 15.3.3 for infrastructure.

Finally, we have reviewed the City's Environmental Management Guidelines (revised January 2007) and see that these do not seem to have been followed. While we realize these are only guidelines, our concern is that the spirit of the guidelines seems to have been ignored. Our general sense is that a new Environmental Assessment could have been initiated by the City last year.

Again, given the short timelines of the RFQ for the Stanton drain remediation (start Oct. 2012 finish May 2013); we are concerned about how the beaver will remain unharmed throughout this process. As we discussed by phone after our meeting, which was prior to our subsequent research, the life cycle and sustenance needs of beaver during the year may make it difficult to coordinate construction and completion deadlines. If live-trapping is the option, this could only be done in the summer once the kits are safely through their infancy and before the lodge and dams are fully stocked with winter food.

Although the landowners agreed to the location of the SWM facility and reconstructed drain, moving this infrastructure to avoid the removal of significant habitat and achieve engineering objectives could be an option. If this is truly not possible, it is important to explore appropriate locations within 1 km. We would be happy to work with you on options. The beaver and the wetland ecosystem remain our priority.

I will contact you shortly to review our concerns.

Sara Rans, Chairperson, Wildlife Subcommittee, Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

cc Andrew Macpherson, Manager, Environmental and Parks Planning; Beth Sayler, Chairperson, Animal Welfare Advisory Committee; Jackie Martin: AWAC agenda