



Hamilton/Burlington SPCA
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 10, 2016. 6:30 pm.
Bay Gardens Funeral Home. 947 Rymal Rd. East

Present: M. Strecker, Chair; B. Dowd; J. Gledhill; M. Moore; J. Nemet; K. Uggenti; M. Emo (CEO)
Regrets: B. Holton; J. Junaid; A. Johnson; J. Nemet;

1.0 Welcome

M. Strecker called the meeting to order at 6:45 with quorum in place.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

J. Gledhill moved to approve the agenda. **K. Uggenti seconded. Motion carried.**

3.0 Declarations of Interest

None reported.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

M. Moore moved to approve the minutes of April 12, 2016 with the following amendment: 10.0 In Camera Resolution: **J. Gledhill seconded. Motion carried.**

5.0 Business Arising

None

6.0 Consent Agenda

B. Dowd moved to receive the consent agenda. **K. Uggenti seconded. Motion carried.**

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Finance Committee

B. Dowd, Treasurer, presented the 1st Quarter Financial Statements as reviewed by the Finance Committee on May 3, 2016.

B. Dowd moved to approve the report. **K. Uggenti seconded. Motion carried.**

8.0 New Business

8.1 Program Development

M. Emo advised the Board that options are being developed to increase spay/neuter services available to free roaming cats – otherwise known as the TNR (Trap Neuter Return) Program. Options may include expanding service hours in the Companion Animal Hospital (all on a non-profit basis), and/or increasing

veterinary participation on site or across the community; in addition fee schedules will be assessed. A plan will be presented to the Board at a date to be determined.

9.0 In Camera: Legal

J. Gledhill moved that the Board meeting go in camera. **B. Dowd seconded. Motion carried.**

J. Gledhill moved that the Board meeting go out of camera. **K. Ugenti seconded. Motion carried.**

10.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is Tuesday June 14th, 6:00 pm. in the portable at 245 Dartnall Road.

11.0 **J. Nemet moved** that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 pm.

MEMO

To: HBSPCA Board of Directors
From: M. Emo, CEO
Date: May 5, 2016
Re: 6.2 CEO Report

Sarah Mombourquette, Cruelty Protection Officer, has tendered her resignation from the HBSPCA effective May 13 and will be working as an Animal Control Officer at Hamilton Animal Services. Sarah has served the animals, the community and the shelter with diligence, skill, commitment, empathy and great pride. We have no doubt that the animals (pet companions and more) and the community will continue to benefit from Sarah's solution building skills and presence in our neighbourhoods. Recruitment is underway.

The annual conference of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies was well attended by Staff and Board members: Margaret Strecker, Joe Nemet, Janeen Junaid, Aidan Johnson, and M. Emo, and for one day each – Karen Reichheld (Manager Animal Care and Adoptions), Michelle MacNab (Program Assistant), and Tania-Celik-Sonne (Humane Education). Board members' and Staff summaries of new insights and key learnings are being summarised for distribution. M. Emo participated in a day long and wide ranging round table session with CFHS animal welfare leadership from across Canada, the outcomes of which will inform the CFHS strategic priorities over the next three years. The conference program, abstracts and presentation slides are available at <http://conference.cfhs.ca/program>.

Notes from a session in March¹ - Cats in Hamilton - hosted by the HBSPCA were summarised by our facilitator Barbra Cartwright and shared with session participants on May 3. Four priorities were identified for healthy, safe and wanted cats in Hamilton:

- *Priority 1: Foster active collaboration*
 - Goal or focus should be on building a common resource directory
 - Identify next steps for convening
 - Consider: Are we a coalition, partnership, collaboration?
- *Priority 2: Reduce Cat Overpopulation*
 - Increase accessible spay/neuter for owned cats
 - TNR for feral and homeless colonies/free roaming cats
- *Priority 3: Program Analysis*
 - Action programs for which there is evidence that they work
- *Priority 4: Education*

¹ As reported in April, participants included a diverse range of community members from among cat rescue and rehoming, protection, by law enforcement, shelter care and shelter medicine, veterinary care, research and education. Session goals included relationship building among stakeholders and identification of strategies and common ground for healthy, safe and wanted cats in Hamilton.

- Responsible guardianship – S/N, pet ID, pet health
- Humane education
- Unified messages
- Pet retail

Looking ahead, a couple of people have volunteered to consider next steps; and, the HBSPCA is hosting a session on best practice responses (including TNR) to free roaming cats in urban environments on Tuesday May 17th with program leadership from Toronto.

The CFHS (Canadian Federation of Humane Societies) has had a key role in the development of *Bill C-146 Modernizing Animal Protections Act* and advancing support for the Bill. Canada’s animal cruelty laws are among the weakest of their kind in the world; the animal cruelty sections in the Criminal Code were first enacted in 1892, and the offences have not been meaningfully updated since 1954. At the request of the Federation of its members, personalized letters from the CFHS Executive Director and HBSPCA CEO have been delivered to area MPs with background on Bill-246. In brief, Bill C-246:

- closes loopholes related to animal fighting making it illegal to breed or train animals to fight or to profit from animal fighting;
- creates a gross negligence offence for animal cruelty to make it easier to prosecute cases such as deplorable puppy mill conditions, where it can be difficult to prove that the owners *wilfully* intended to neglect the animals or to cause harm;
- creates a new offence for killing an animal “brutally or viciously” regardless of whether the animal dies immediately. For example, an owner killed his dog with a baseball bat, and the judge acquitted on the basis that the dog had died immediately without suffering. This provision closes that loophole;
- defines bestiality as sexual conduct between a human being and an animal. Recently, the British Columbia Court of Appeal interpreted bestiality to require penetration, and indicated that a legislative amendment was required to change this definition;
- increases the penalty where an individual is convicted of an animal cruelty offence for a second time. A judge may ban that individual from owning an animal for life; and
- creates a new consolidated Part in the *Criminal Code* titled “Offences Against Animals”.