



Oshawa[®] Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee

Minutes

March 25, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
Committee Room

Present: Donna Benson
Melinda Diebel, Barn Cat Co-op
Dianne Fil, Spay, Neuter Initiatives
MJ Galaski, Animal Rescue Krew
Kimberley Mack, Golden Rescue
Kelli Polsinelli, Wild Earth Refuge
Councillor Brian Nicholson

Absent: Kassie Dickson
Kim Marchbank, Team Chelsea

Also Present: K. Christopher, Council-Committee Coordinator
Felicia Blanchet, Council-Committee Coordinator
K. Feltham-Pittman, Manager, Animal Services

Public Meeting

Krystal Christopher, Council-Committee Coordinator called the meeting to order and advised that all members were participating from the Committee Meeting Room except Kimberly Mack and Kelli Polsinelli who participated electronically and Kim Marchbank and Kassie Dickson who was absent.

Land Acknowledgement

The City of Oshawa is situated on lands within the traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Anishinaabeg and the signatories of the Williams Treaties, which include the Mississaugas of Scugog Island, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations, and the Chippewas of Georgina Island, Rama and Beausoleil First Nations. We are grateful for the Anishinaabeg who have cared for the land and waters within this territory since time immemorial.

We recognize that Oshawa is steeped in rich Indigenous history and is now present day home to many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. We express gratitude for this diverse group of Indigenous Peoples who continue to care for the land and shape and strengthen our community.

As a municipality, we are committed to understanding the truth of our shared history, acknowledging our role in addressing the negative impacts that colonization continues to have on Indigenous Peoples, developing reciprocal relationships, and taking meaningful action toward reconciliation.

We are all Treaty people.

Additional Agenda Items

None

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None

Presentations

Legislative Services - Advisory Committees of Council Policy and Procedure and Election of Chair and Vice Chair

1. Advisory Committees of Council Policy and Procedure

K. Christopher, Council-Committee Coordinator provided a presentation concerning the Advisory Committees of Council Policy and Procedure.

Councillor Nicholson entered the meeting electronically at 6:33 p.m.

2. Election of Chair of the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee

K. Christopher, Council-Committee Coordinator opened the floor for nominations for the role of Chair of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee for a one-year term.

Moved by Melinda Diebel

That Donna Benson be nominated as Chair of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee for a one-year term.

Donna Benson accepted the nomination of Chair.

Moved by MJ Galaski

That the nominations for the role of Chair of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee be closed.

Carried

The vote to appoint Donna Benson as Chair of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee.

Carried

3. Election of Vice Chair of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee

K. Christopher, Council-Committee Coordinator opened the floor for nominations for the role of Vice Chair of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee for a one-year term.

Moved by MJ Galaski

That Melinda Diebel be nominated as Vice Chair of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee for a one-year term.

Melinda Diebel accepted the nomination for Vice Chair.

Moved by MJ Galaski

That the nominations for the role of Vice Chair of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee be closed.

Carried

The vote to appoint Melinda Diebel as Vice Chair of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee.

Carried

Donna Benson assumed the Chair.

Animal Services - Report on Activities at Animal Services

Kathy Pittman-Feltham, Manager, Animal Services, provided an update on the activities at Animal Services.

The Committee questioned Kathy Pittman-Feltham.

Delegations

None

Referrals from Council and Committees

None

Correspondence

None

Reports

OACAC-25-01 - Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee 2025 Meeting Schedule

Moved by Melinda Diebel

That the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee 2025 Meeting Schedule be adopted as recommended.

Carried

OACAC-25-02 - Community Resources Working Group Report on Pet Wellness Days

Moved by Melinda Diebel

That the Community Resources Working Group Report on Pet Wellness Days be received for information.

Carried

Councillor Nicholson left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Items Introduced by Members

OACAC-25-03 - Update of 2024 Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee Work Plan for 2025

Moved by Melinda Diebel

That the 2024 Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee work plan be updated and approved as the work plan for 2025.

Carried

OACAC-25-04 - Creation of a Community Resources Working Group

Moved by Melinda Diebel

That a Community Resources Working Group be created to cover items in the 2025 Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee work plan under the headings:

- Services for vulnerable animals;
- Promotion & education;
- Fundraising support & network building; and,

That Kimberley Mack, Dianne Fill, Donna Benson, Melinda Diebel and MJ Galaski be appointed to the Working Group; and,

That MJ Galaski be appointed as Chair of the Working Group.

Carried

OACAC-25-05 - Creation of a By-law Working Group

Moved by Melinda Diebel

That a By-law Working Group be created to cover items in the 2025 Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee work plan under the headings:

- Bylaws & regulations;
- Wildlife;
- Other animals; and,

That Melinda Diebel, Donna Benson and Kelli Polsinelli be appointed to the Working Group; and,

That Kelli Polsinelli be appointed as Chair of the Working Group.

Carried

Adjournment

Moved by Melinda Diebel

That the meeting adjourn at 7:39 p.m.

Carried