

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

OF THE CITY OF TORONTO

MONDAY, JULY 16, 2007,
TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2007,
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2007 AND
THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2007

11.61 People, Dogs and Parks Strategy - Off-Leash Areas

PE7.3	AMENDED			Ward: All
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July 18, 2007

Speaker Bussin in the Chair.

Motions:

1. Councillor Moscoe moved that the Item be amended by adding the following:
 - a. The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation be requested to review and report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on the proposed budget for materials and resources and give consideration to the following:
 1. the purchase of mechanized dog litter-picking equipment; and
 2. language appropriate materials specific to particular neighbourhoods to support the international pictogram signage.
 - b. Appropriate facilities for dog litter disposal be phased into all leash free parks and, if possible, all City parks.
 - c. The following be referred to Animal Services for report back,

through the Board of Health:

1. any dog be prohibited from entering a City park unless it is wearing an up-to-date City of Toronto dog licence tag; and
 2. any dog seized by Animal Control or other By-law Officer in a City park in contravention of this by-law not be returned to the owner unless the appropriate fine, in addition to any impound fees or other charges, are paid by the owner.
2. Councillor Del Grande moved that the Item be amended to provide that the Policy include a requirement that dogs be muzzled in off-leash areas where there is no fencing.
3. Councillor Palacio moved that the Item be amended by adding the following:
- The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, advise the local Ward Councillor of new requests for off-leash areas, or any off-leash area facing removal of its status.
4. Councillor Fletcher moved that the Item be amended by:
- a. deleting Recommendation 5 of the Parks and Environment Committee and replacing it with the following:
 5. City Council authorize staff of the By-law Enforcement Units of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division and the Toronto Public Health Animal Services Unit to begin the Special Constable Appointment Process with the Toronto Police Service Special Constable Liaison Section for existing By-law Enforcement Officers.
 - b. adding the following:
 1. The Board of Health Animal Services Sub-Committee be requested to work with staff of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Municipal Licensing and Standards Divisions to consolidate current Animal By-laws into one "Responsible Pet Ownership By-law".
 2. A percentage of ticket revenue from By-law infractions relating to dogs be used for increased enforcement.

5. Councillor Ford moved that the Item be amended to provide that the Policy require all off-leash areas to be fenced-in.
6. Councillor Nunziata moved that the Item be amended by adding the following:

The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation be requested to submit a report to the Parks and Environment Committee on the possibility of increasing fines for by-law infractions related to dogs, to offset enforcement costs.

Votes:

Adoption of motion 1a by Councillor Moscoe:

Yes - 30	
Councillors:	Ainslie, Ashton, Augimeri, Bussin, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremaeker, Di Giorgio, Filion, Fletcher, Ford, Grimes, Hall, Jenkins, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Moeser, Moscoe, Nunziata, Ootes, Palacio, Pantalone, Parker, Perks, Perruzza, Saundercook, Stintz, Vaughan, Walker
No - 3	
Councillors:	Del Grande, Kelly, Minnan-Wong

Carried by a majority of 27.

Adoption of motion 1b by Councillor Moscoe:

Yes - 29	
Councillors:	Ainslie, Augimeri, Bussin, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremaeker, Del Grande, Di Giorgio, Fletcher, Ford, Grimes, Hall, Jenkins, Kelly, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Moscoe, Nunziata, Ootes, Palacio, Pantalone, Perks, Perruzza, Saundercook, Stintz, Walker
No - 3	
Councillors:	Filion, Parker, Vaughan

Carried by a majority of 26.

Adoption of Part 1 of motion 1c by Councillor Moscoe:

Yes - 29	
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Councillors:	Ainslie, Ashton, Augimeri, Bussin, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremaeker, Di Giorgio, Filion, Fletcher, Ford, Grimes, Hall, Jenkins, Kelly, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Moeser, Moscoe, Nunziata, Ootes, Palacio, Pantalone, Perks, Perruzza, Saundercook, Vaughan, Walker
No - 4 Councillors:	Del Grande, Minnan-Wong, Parker, Stintz

Carried by a majority of 25.

Adoption of Part 2 of motion 1c by Councillor Moscoe:

Yes - 22 Councillors:	Ashton, Augimeri, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremaeker, Di Giorgio, Filion, Fletcher, Ford, Hall, Jenkins, Kelly, Lee, Moeser, Moscoe, Nunziata, Ootes, Palacio, Pantalone, Perruzza, Saundercook, Walker
No - 11 Councillors:	Ainslie, Bussin, Del Grande, Grimes, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Parker, Perks, Stintz, Vaughan

Carried by a majority of 11.

Adoption of motion 2 by Councillor Del Grande:

Yes - 6 Councillors:	Augimeri, Del Grande, Jenkins, Lee, Palacio, Perruzza
No - 27 Councillors:	Ainslie, Ashton, Bussin, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremaeker, Di Giorgio, Filion, Fletcher, Ford, Grimes, Hall, Kelly, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Moscoe, Nunziata, Ootes, Pantalone, Parker, Perks, Saundercook, Stintz, Vaughan, Walker

Lost by a majority of 21.

Adoption of motion 3 by Councillor Palacio:

Yes - 33 Councillors:	Ainslie, Ashton, Augimeri, Bussin, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremaeker, Del Grande, Di Giorgio, Filion, Fletcher, Ford, Grimes, Hall, Jenkins, Kelly, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Moscoe, Nunziata, Ootes, Palacio, Pantalone, Parker,
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Perks, Perruzza, Saundercook, Stintz, Vaughan, Walker

No - 0

Carried, without dissent.

Adoption of Part 1 of motion 4b by Councillor Fletcher:

Yes - 33

Councillors: Ainslie, Ashton, Augimeri, Bussin, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremacker, Del Grande, Di Giorgio, Filion, Fletcher, Ford, Grimes, Hall, Jenkins, Kelly, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Moscoe, Nunziata, Ootes, Palacio, Pantalone, Parker, Perks, Perruzza, Saundercook, Stintz, Vaughan, Walker

No - 0

Carried, without dissent.

Adoption of Part 2 of motion 4b by Councillor Fletcher:

Yes - 31

Councillors: Ainslie, Augimeri, Bussin, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremacker, Del Grande, Di Giorgio, Filion, Fletcher, Ford, Grimes, Hall, Jenkins, Kelly, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Moscoe, Nunziata, Ootes, Palacio, Pantalone, Perks, Perruzza, Saundercook, Stintz, Vaughan, Walker

No - 2

Councillors: Ashton, Parker

Carried by a majority of 29.

Adoption of motion 4a by Councillor Fletcher:

Yes - 30

Councillors: Ainslie, Ashton, Augimeri, Bussin, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremacker, Di Giorgio, Filion, Fletcher, Grimes, Hall, Jenkins, Kelly, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Moscoe, Nunziata, Ootes, Palacio, Pantalone, Parker, Perks, Saundercook, Stintz, Vaughan, Walker

No - 3

Councillors: Del Grande, Ford, Perruzza

Carried by a majority of 27.

Adoption of motion 5 by Councillor Ford:

Yes - 10	
Councillors:	Augimeri, Del Grande, Di Giorgio, Ford, Grimes, Jenkins, Ootes, Perruzza, Saundercook, Walker
No - 23	
Councillors:	Ainslie, Ashton, Bussin, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremaeker, Filion, Fletcher, Hall, Kelly, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Moscoe, Nunziata, Palacio, Pantalone, Parker, Perks, Stintz, Vaughan

Lost by a majority of 13.

Adoption of motion 6 by Councillor Nunziata:

Yes - 30	
Councillors:	Ainslie, Augimeri, Bussin, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremaeker, Del Grande, Di Giorgio, Filion, Fletcher, Ford, Grimes, Hall, Jenkins, Kelly, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Moeser, Nunziata, Ootes, Palacio, Pantalone, Parker, Perks, Perruzza, Saundercook, Stintz, Vaughan, Walker
No - 3	
Councillors:	Ashton, Minnan-Wong, Moscoe

Carried by a majority of 27.

Adoption of the Item, as amended:

Yes - 29	
Councillors:	Ainslie, Ashton, Bussin, Carroll, Cho, De Baeremaeker, Di Giorgio, Filion, Fletcher, Grimes, Hall, Jenkins, Kelly, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Moscoe, Nunziata, Palacio, Pantalone, Parker, Perks, Perruzza, Saundercook, Stintz, Vaughan, Walker
No - 4	
Councillors:	Augimeri, Del Grande, Ford, Ootes

Carried by a majority of 25.

City Council Decision

City Council adopted the following motions:

1. City Council adopt the People, Dogs and Parks - Off-leash Policy, in accordance with the report recommendations and Attachment 1 of the report (June 19, 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, subject to amending the policy to:
 - a. exclude female dogs in heat and non-neutered males from off-leash areas and Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks, be amended accordingly;
 - b. add an introductory policy sentence to recognize the social benefit of dogs in parks;
 - c. consider seasonal adjustments to off-leash exclusions areas including locations and times;
 - d. reinforce dog licensing requirements for off-leash areas; and
 - e. delete the Natural Environment Areas section and replace it with:

These areas that fall within existing off leash sites will be reviewed on a site by site basis by appropriate representatives of Parks Forestry and Recreation to determine suitability and possible amendments.
2. Prior to the implementation the People, Dogs and Parks – Off Leash Policy, the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation be directed to develop a communication plan, in order to promote public education, awareness and compliance with the Policy.
3. The People, Dogs and Parks – Off-Leash Policy come into effect in the fall of 2007.
4. The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation be directed to report back on the effectiveness of the People, Dogs and Parks Off-Leash Policy in one year's time after implementation to the Parks and Environment Committee.
5. City Council authorize staff of the By-law Enforcement Units of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division and the Toronto Public Health Animal Services Unit to begin the Special Constable Appointment Process with the Toronto Police Service Special Constable Liaison Section for existing By-law Enforcement Officers.
6. The Board of Health Animal Services Sub-Committee be requested to work with staff of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Municipal Licensing and Standards Divisions to consolidate current Animal By-laws into one "Responsible Pet Ownership By-law".
7. The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, advise the local Ward

Councillor of new requests for off-leash areas, or any off-leash area facing removal of its status.

8. Appropriate facilities for dog litter disposal be phased into all leash free parks and, if possible, all City parks.
9. A percentage of ticket revenue from By-law infractions relating to dogs be used for increased enforcement.
10. The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation be requested to submit a report to the Parks and Environment Committee on the possibility of increasing fines for by-law infractions related to dogs, to offset enforcement costs.
11. The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation be requested to review and report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on the proposed budget for materials and resources and give consideration to the following:
 - a. the purchase of mechanized dog litter-picking equipment; and
 - b. language appropriate materials specific to particular neighbourhoods to support the international pictogram signage.
12. The following be referred to Animal Services for report back, through the Board of Health:
 - a. any dog be prohibited from entering a City park unless it is wearing an up-to-date City of Toronto dog licence tag; and
 - b. any dog seized by Animal Control or other By-law Officer in a City park in contravention of this by-law not be returned to the owner unless the appropriate fine, in addition to any impound fees or other charges, are paid by the owner.

Background Information

Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bqrd/backgroundfile-5226.pdf>)

Council also considered the following communications:

- (July 5, 2007) from Mary Drakich. (PE7.3.36)
- (July 11, 2007) from Kristine Drakich. (PE7.3.37)
- (July 11, 2007) from Mary Drakich. (PE7.3.38)
- (July 11, 2007) from Shirley Morriss. (PE7.3.39)
- (July 10, 2007) from Debra Scott. (PE7.3.40)
- (July 10, 2007) from Ziba K. Reiner. (PE7.3.41)

- (July 6, 2007) from Marjorie Cripps. (PE7.3.42)
- (July 6, 2007) from Marjorie Cripps. (PE7.3.43)
- (July 9, 2007) from Darby Jason. (PE7.3.44)
- (July 12, 2007) from Premika Ratnam, Chair, Play at the Park. (PE7.3.45)
- (July 12, 2007) from Tim Trow, President, Toronto Human Society. (PE7.3.46)
- (July 12, 2007) from Dianne Robinson. (PE7.3.47)
- (July 12, 2007) from Rainer Moeller. (PE7.3.48)
- (July 12, 2007) from Margaret Taylor. (PE7.3.49)
- (July 12, 2007) from Premika Ratnam. (PE7.3.50)
- (July 13, 2007) from Charles Kaufmann. (PE7.3.51)
- (July 13, 2007) from Casey Conklin, Withrow Park Dog Owners Group. (PE7.3.52)
- (July 15, 2007) from Kelly Manis, Kelly's Dog Walking and Pet Sitting. (PE7.3.53)
- (July 16, 2007) from Lara Willis, All Canadian Pet Services Network. (PE7.3.54)
- (July 16, 2007) from Tracey Capes. (PE7.3.55)
- (July 16, 2007) from Premika Ratnam, Chair, Play at the Park. (PE7.3.56)
- (July 16, 2007) from Ewa Deszynski. (PE7.3.57)
- (July 13, 2007) from Tracy Chong and Anca Pascalau. (PE7.3.58)
- (July 14, 2007) from Peter Victor. (PE7.3.59)
- (July 11, 2007) from Anca Pascalau. (PE7.3.60)