



Legislation Details (With Text)

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Presented by: Chris Jardine

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Attachments: 1. Legislative History Animal Bylaw, 2. Animal Bylaw History, 3. Animal Bylaw Amendment Recommendations, 4. Off Leash Areas_Remaining, 5. Off Leash Areas Program Updates, 6. Off-Leash Sites Public Consultation Report, 7. Proposed Land Use Bylaw and Animal Bylaw Changes Survey - July 2016, 8. Animal Bylaw 11_2013

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/9/2017	1	City Council	approved	Pass

TAMRMS#: B06

Animal Bylaw

Presented by: Chris Jardine

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Administration prepare amendments to Animal Bylaw 11/2013 as outlined in the attachment entitled "Animal Bylaw Amendment Recommendations" to the January 9, 2017 agenda report entitled "Animal Bylaw" and the Amending Bylaw be brought forward for Council consideration by December 31, 2017.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

As a follow up to the Agenda Report, dated November 2, 2015, the purpose of this report is to provide Council with updated recommendations for the amendment of the Animal Bylaw and for Council to provide further direction to Administration on what Bylaw amendments, if any, are desired.

COUNCIL DIRECTION

On November 2, 2015 the following motion was passed:

(C540-2015)

That the matter of Animal Bylaw / Off-Leash Areas be postponed to a date to be determined by Agenda Committee.

Previous Council history related to the Animal Bylaw can be viewed in the attached Legislative History Animal Bylaw.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Animal Bylaw 11/2013 took effect on September 1, 2014 following an extensive review and considerable Council debate. Since the inception of the Bylaw, Administration has been seeking feedback from the community in a variety of methods as it relates to the Off-Leash Areas designations and the use of these sites. Administration has also been monitoring and reviewing how the new regulations have been working from a process, communications and operational perspective.

A summary of some of the history and key changes to the Bylaw has been provided in attached Animal Bylaw History.

Animal Bylaw Amendment Recommendations

Since the implementation of the Animal Bylaw in 2014, some aspects of the program are functioning well; however, based on significant public input, Administration is of the opinion that the Off-Leash Areas program is not working and as a result is suggesting a number of amendments to the Animal Bylaw to better meet the complex needs of the community.

Below is a summary of these recommendations. Further detail on the issues and challenges can be found in the Animal Bylaw Amendment Recommendations which are attached.

Summary of Animal Bylaw Amendment Recommendations:

1. That the criteria in the Animal Bylaw for Off-Leash Areas be amended so that it prohibits Off-Leash Areas from having trails, playgrounds, tot lots, sports fields and sport courts within them (other than boarded outdoor rinks).
2. That the requirement for the City Manager to “endeavor to establish an Off-Leash Area within every neighborhood” be removed from the Bylaw.
3. That the provision in the Bylaw that requires the City Manager to establish a Policy to accept applications for off-leash designation changes be removed.
4. That amendments be made to clarify the Dangerous Dog Determination appeal process as well as the times on which off-leash dogs are permitted in an outdoor boarded rink.

There are currently 20 Off-Leash sites located within parks and thirteen outdoor boarded rinks. If the recommended amendments are approved, 15 Off-Leash Areas would be removed.

This would leave five Off-Leash Areas including:

- Red Willow Park - Braeside.
- 70 Boudreau Road.
- 71 Riel Drive.
- Lacombe Dog Park.
- Dodger Dog Park.
- Thirteen outdoor boarded rinks.

A map showing the remaining sites if Council approves the recommendations can be found on the attachment named Off Leash Areas Remaining.

Off Leash Area Program Updates and Plans

Over the past twelve months, the City Manager has authorized minor changes to the existing Off-Leash Areas program pursuant to the authority granted by Council through the Animal Bylaw.

A summary of the Off-Leash Areas program updates and plans can be reviewed in the attached Off-Leash Areas Program Updates.

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS OR ENGAGEMENT

Considerable stakeholder communication and engagement occurred through the review and approval of the Animal Bylaw in 2012. This was done through a specific Animal Bylaw survey, formal public hearings on the Bylaw, open house information session, website updates, local media releases and articles and numerous social media posts through Facebook and Twitter.

Through 2015, Administration actively sought out public input related to the Off-Leash Areas and their use through a year long online survey and stakeholder meetings.

The summary of feedback can be viewed in the Off-Leash Sites Public Consultation Report which was previously distributed in the Agenda Report dated November 2, 2015.

In June 2016, City Council directed Administration to complete a statistically representative survey of the opinion of St. Albert tax payers on proposed Animal Bylaw changes.

The purpose of the survey was to specifically ascertain the public's opinion on proposed designated Off-Leash Areas and Dog Friendly Parks as well as the proposed introduction of urban agriculture regulations allowing urban hens and bee-keeping.

The report completed by Leger dated July 2016 can be viewed in the Proposed Land Use Bylaw and Animal Bylaw Changes Survey which are attached..

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

Financial:

There are no immediate and direct financial implications if the proposed recommendation is passed, however, there may be a need for some increased public education which may result in some recommendations for increased funding after the Bylaw amendments are debated.

Legal / Risk:

N/A

Program or Service:

The recommended changes to the Animal Bylaw will provide clarity and will establish a reasonable balance between conflicting resident desires. The aim of the program modifications is to address

the greater good of the community for all park users.

Organizational:

Due to reduction of the number of sites, there may be operational efficiencies in monitoring and maintaining them. However, there is also a possibility of increased enforcement demand in on-leash areas.

ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

If Council does not wish to support the recommendations, the following alternatives or additions could be considered:

1. That no action is taken. Administration will continue to monitor the implementation of the Animal Bylaw through regular operational oversight and bring matters forward to City Council as deemed appropriate by Administration.
2. That the Animal Bylaw be amended as per the specific direction provided by City Council.

STRATEGIC CONNECTIONS

- a) Council's Strategic Outcomes and Priorities (See Policy C-CG-02)
 - CULTIVATE EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT: A responsive, accountable government that delivers value to the community.
 - Being responsive to the resident's feedback related Off-Leash Area designations demonstrates responsive government.
 - CULTIVATE A SAFE, HEALTHY AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY: A community that provides opportunities for everyone to realize their potential in a thinking, caring and connected way. Making Animal Bylaw amendments helps ensure that the Bylaw is an effective tool for enforcement and education leading to community satisfaction and safety.
- b) Long Term Plans (e.g. MDP, Social Master Plan, Cultural Master Plan, etc.)
N/A
- c) Corporate Objectives (See Corporate Business Plan)
 - Deliver programs and services that meet or exceed our standards
 - Ensure our customers are very satisfied
- d) Council Policies
N/A
- e) Other Plans or Initiatives (Business Plans, Implementation Strategies, etc.)
N/A

Report Date (Council Meeting Date): January 9, 2017

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