
Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 7
Meeting Date Wednesday, July 4, 2007
Start Time 9:30 AM
Location Committee Room 1, City Hall

Contact Helen Smith, Manager
Phone 416-392-0146
E-mail pec@toronto.ca

Item		Page
PE7.2	United Nations University Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development: Memorandum of Understanding (Ward: All)	1
PE7.3	People, Dogs and Parks Strategy - Off-Leash Areas (Ward: All)	3
PE7.4	Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy (Ward: All)	7

Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 7
Meeting Date Wednesday, July 4, 2007
Start Time 9:30 AM
Location Committee Room 1, City Hall

Contact Helen Smith, Manager
Phone 416-392-0146
E-mail pec@toronto.ca

PE7.2	ACTION			Ward: All
-------	--------	--	--	-----------

United Nations University Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development: Memorandum of Understanding

City Council Decision

City Council on July 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2007, adopted the following motions:

1. The Toronto Environment Office represent the City of Toronto on the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Steering Committee.
2. For a period of two years, the Toronto Environment Office provide office space and staff support for the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Secretariat.
3. The Mayor, on behalf of the City of Toronto, sign the Memorandum of Understanding formally committing the City to the obligations listed above, provided such Memorandum of Understanding is in the form attached or if amended to the satisfaction of the Director of the Toronto Environment Office in consultation with the City Solicitor.

(Deferred from June 6, 2007 – 2007.PE5.7)

(May 23, 2007) Report from Deputy City Manager Richard Butts

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends that:

1. the Toronto Environment Office represent the City of Toronto on the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Steering

Committee;

2. for a period of two years, the Toronto Environment Office provide office space and staff support for the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Secretariat; and
3. the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Toronto, sign the Memorandum of Understanding formally committing the City to the obligations listed above, provided such Memorandum of Understanding is in the form attached or if amended to the satisfaction of the Director of the Toronto Environment Office in consultation with the City Solicitor.

Financial Impact

The Toronto RCE will make use of existing resources within the budget for the Toronto Environment Office. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact statement.

Summary

In March 2005, the Mayor wrote to the United Nations University requesting that the City of Toronto be included in an international network of Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (see Attachment 1). Toronto received this recognition in May 2005.

Since that time, the Toronto Environment Office has worked locally to build a network of education for sustainable development (“ESD”) stakeholders to form a Steering Committee for the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (“Toronto RCE”). Toronto's RCE aims to strengthen communication, coordination and collaboration among ESD stakeholders in the Toronto region.

The Toronto RCE does not constitute a separate legal entity, but instead represents an alliance of institutions and organizations committed to enhancing education to secure an inclusive, healthy, prosperous and environmentally sustainable future for Toronto. The attached Memorandum of Understanding (see Attachment 2) outlines the parameters for collaboration on Toronto RCE projects, and establishes a Steering Committee to govern the activities of the Toronto RCE.

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the City of Toronto sign the Memorandum of Understanding, and continue to play a leadership role in the activities of the Toronto RCE. Staff in the City Solicitor’s Office have reviewed the attached Memorandum of Understanding, and do not have any concerns about the content of the document.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-5195.pdf>

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee requested that:

1. The Director, Toronto Environment Office, report to the September 14, 2007 meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee on:
 - a. a permanent site for the Toronto office in the event that the Centre continues longer than two years;
 - b. the feasibility of global conferencing as an alternative to replace air travel for meetings; and
 - c. how the Toronto Environment Office and United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise complement each other.

PE7.3	AMENDED			Ward: All
-------	---------	--	--	-----------

People, Dogs and Parks Strategy - Off-Leash Areas

City Council Decision

City Council on July 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2007, 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.

(June 19, 2007) Report from General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends that:

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 recognise 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;
 - 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. Council refer the creation of Special Constables for Animal Services to the Board of Health.

Financial Impact

Increased enforcement and parks improvements to fully implement the People, Dogs, and Parks Strategy will require additional Operating funding of \$1,163,200 on an annualized basis and additional Capital funding of \$580,000 in 2008 and \$405,000 annually from 2009 onwards. These requests will be submitted for consideration during the 2008 Budget process.

The 2008 request for ten new By-Law Enforcement Officers, including supplies and space rental costs for 6 months in 2008 will require \$666,600 of Operating Budget funding and an additional \$175,000 of Capital Budget funding for five new vehicles. For 2009, an annualization of \$496,600 will bring the total annual Operating Budget funding to \$1,163,200. In addition, approximately \$405,000 per year of Parkland Capital improvements will be requested to support the installation of off-leash amenities in parks.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

Parks, Forestry and Recreation recently conducted a series of public consultation sessions to assist in the development of a comprehensive strategy to address the provision of off-leash areas for dogs in City parks, greenspaces and waterfront areas. Competing demands on the park system has created conflict amongst various user groups. How, when, where and under what circumstances off-leash areas are integrated into the equation of balancing the needs and finding common ground amongst all park users is a difficult issue and one that must be addressed.

Establishment of a comprehensive strategy will provide a consistent approach to the provision of off-leash areas within the parks system, taking into consideration the interests of dog owners, commercial dog walkers, other park users and the protection of our assets. Additional capital and operating funds will be required to fulfill the recommendations in this strategy.

As population growth and density of development increases across the City, the competing demands on existing parks, greenspaces and waterfront areas are becoming more pronounced. Currently Toronto Public Health, Animal Services estimates there are 250,000 dogs residing in the city. As stewards of Toronto's parks, greenspaces and waterfront areas, it is prudent of the Division to take a leadership role in integrating off-leash areas into the equation of balancing needs and finding common ground amongst our many park users.

Background Information

Staff Report

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

Communications

- (June 6, 2007) e-mail from James Langton (PE.Main.PE7.3.1)
- (June 5, 2007) letter from Alan Demb (PE.Main.PE7.3.2)
- (June 5, 2007) letter from Nina Castle (PE.Main.PE7-3.3)
- (June 21, 2007) e-mail from Rita Lecours (PE.Main.PE7.3.4)
- (June 27, 2007) e-mail from Anca Pascalau (PE.Main.PE7.3.5)
- (June 27, 2007) e-mail from Shah E. Haq (PE.Main.PE7.3.6)
- (June 28, 2007) e-mail from Munera Zafar (PE.Main.PE7.3.7)
- (June 28, 2007) e-mail from Yassir Ahmed (PE.Main.PE7.3.8)
- (June 28, 2007) e-mail from Ashraf Kazmi (PE.Main.PE7.3.9)
- (June 28, 2007) e-mail from Gina Mollicone-Long (PE.Main.PE7.3.10)
- (June 28, 2007) e-mail from Habib Ur Rehman (PE.Main.PE7.3.11)

- (June 28, 2007) e-mail from Saleem Quraishi (PE.Main.PE7.3.12)
- (June 29, 2007) letter from Robert Ruggiero (PE.Main.PE7.3.13)
- (June 29, 2007) e-mail from Muhammad Zubair (PE.Main.PE7.3.14)
- (July 1, 2007) e-mail from Nirmala Fernandez (PE.Main.PE7-3-15)
- (July 3, 2007) Submission from Melissa J. Catalano (PE.Main.PE7.3.16)
- (July 3, 2007) e-mail from Nicholas Brooks (PE.New.PE7.3.17)
- (July 3, 2007) e-mail from Christine Ford (PE.New.PE7.3.18)
- (July 3, 2007) letter from John Wilson (PE.Main.PE7.3.19)
- (July 3, 2007) e-mail from Dr. Nena E. Hardie, Clinical Psychology (PE.New.PE7.3.20)
- (July 3, 2007) e-mail from Ila Bossons (PE.New.PE7.3.21)
- (July 3, 2007) e-mail from Dr. Christine Elser and Barry Glaspell (PE.New.PE7.3.22)
- (July 3, 2007) e-mail from Mary Harlan (PE.New.PE7.3.23)
- (July 3, 2007) e-mail from Ziba K. Reiner (PE.New.PE7.3.24)
- (July 3, 2007) e-mail from Mary Drakich (PE.New.PE7.3.25)
- (July 3, 2007) Submission from Yvonne Yamaoka (PE.New.PE7.3.26)
- (July 4, 2007) letter from Tim Trow, President, Toronto Humane Society (PE.New.PE7.3.27)
- (July 4, 2007) Submission from Diana Shepherd (PE.New.PE7.3.28)
- (July 4, 2007) e-mail from Geoff Rayes (PE.Main.PE7.3.29)
- (July 4, 2007) Submission from Jill Smith (PE.New.PE7.3.30)
- (July 4, 2007) Submission from Shirley Machattie (PE.New.PE7.3.31)
- (July 4, 2007) Submission from Norma Lockhart (PE.New.PE7.3.32)
- (July 4, 2007) Submission from Judy Blythe (PE.New.PE7.3.33)
- (July 1, 2007) e-mail from Deborah Symington (PE.Main.PE7.3.34)
- (July 4, 2007) Submission from Patrick Kennedy (PE.New.PE7.3.35)

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)

Speakers

John Cleary, High Park K9 Committee; and filed a submission
 Ian Lee, ; and filed a submission
 Tom David
 Dave Denberg, ; and filed a submission
 Krista Riko
 Shirley McAdam, ; and filed a submission
 Casey Conklin, Withrow Park Dog Owners' Group
 Keiley Abbat, Withrow Core Working Group
 Gillian Morton, ; and filed a submission
 Heidi Libesman, ; and filed a submission
 Luan Egan, Toronto Unleashed
 David Mills
 Shirley Morriss
 Mary Stead
 Michael O'Sullivan, Chairman and CEO, Humane Society of Canada; and filed a submission
 Robert Kelly, ; and filed a submission
 Mike Hyttinen
 Tracy Chong
 Anca Pascalau, ; and filed a submission
 Kevin Scragg, c/o Diana Shepherd
 Melissa Catalano
 Ila Bossons
 Mary Drakich, ; and filed a submission
 Margaret Hawthorn, Older Womens Network
 Mary Helen Spence, ; and filed a submission
 Premika Ratnam, ; and filed a submission
 John Wilson
 Heather Coupey, Community Development; and filed a petition with 540 signatures
 Diane McConnell

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

1. endorsed the amendments proposed by Ian Lee (speaker #2) in principle (Amendments 1, 2 and 3) and referred them to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation for incorporation into the Policy:
2. requested that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation,
 - i. report to the Parks and Environment Committee on:

- a. the feasibility of user fees for dog owners who use off-leash City parks, with the exception of senior citizens;
 - b. how off-leash areas can be established where no resident associations or other organized group exists in high-rise rental areas with a highly ethnic, mobile population;
 - c. developing special “Park Days” for dog licensing; and
 - d. wherever possible, considering the backlog of applications for off-leash areas prior to September 2007;
 - e. an integrated by-law enforcement model for parks;
- ii.. prioritize the implementation of the green bin program in parks and report to the Parks and Environment Committee prior to year-end and the operating budget process on a plan to implement the Committee’s recommendations;
 - iii. present a full breakdown of the capital costs for the off leash areas to the Parks, Forestry and Recreation working group;
3. requested that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Medical Officer of Health consider introducing dog training classes at local recreation centres and parks to start in 2008;
 4. the Medical Officer of Health and the Director, Strategic Communications, report to the Board of Health on methods of educating the public on animal issues;
 5. the Director of Solid Waste Management and the Medical Officer of Health consider using Environment Days for animal licensing;
 6. requested the Budget Committee to recommend that Council give prior approval for the costs to implement this policy in its 2008 budget.

PE7.4	AMENDED			Ward: All
-------	---------	--	--	-----------

Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy

City Council Decision

City Council on July 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2007, adopted the following motions:

1. City Council adopt the Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy, generally 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 any necessary minor substantive or stylistic refinements as may be identified by the

General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the City Solicitor and to amending the Policy to require:

- a. a Commercial Dog Walker to display a Dog Walker Permit when walking more than two dogs at a time;
 - b. Commercial Dog Walker identification be visible to the public, be numerical and large enough to be read at a distance; and
 - c. that commercial dog walkers must ensure that all dogs under their control are wearing a valid up-to-date City of Toronto dog licence tag.
2. City Council approve the Commercial Dog Walker Permit annual fee schedule as outlined below, which pertains to individual dog walkers and larger dog walking businesses who employ numerous dog walkers:

Number of Commercial Dog Walkers				
1	2	3	4	5+
\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$1,000

Such fee schedule to be reviewed in 2008 and reviewed annually thereafter.

3. City Council direct the City Solicitor to make the necessary amendments to Chapter 441 of the Toronto Municipal Code, Fees, to include the annual fee schedule, as outlined above, for the issuance of a Commercial Dog Walker Permit(s).
4. City Council direct the City Solicitor to make the necessary amendments to Chapter 608 of the Toronto Municipal Code, Parks, generally in accordance with Attachment 2 of the report (June 19, 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, subject to any necessary minor substantive or stylistic refinements as may be identified by the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the City Solicitor.
5. The Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy be implemented effective as of the later of September 4, 2007 and the day after the set fine order is issued by the Province.
6. Prior to the implementation of the Commercial Dog Walker Permit 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.
7. The revenues generated from the Commercial Dog Walker Permit system be directed to Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division's Operating Budget to recover costs associated with administration of the system, as well as for park maintenance costs, by-law enforcement and signage of off leash areas.
8. The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation be directed to conduct a review

of the Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy in one year's time and report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on its effectiveness.

(June 19, 2007) Report from General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends that:

1. City Council adopt the Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy, generally 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 any necessary minor substantive or stylistic refinements as may be identified by the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the City Solicitor and to amending the Policy to require:
 - a. a Commercial Dog Walker to display a Dog Walker Permit when walking more than two dogs at a time; and
 - b. Commercial Dog Walker identification be visible to the public, be numerical and large enough to be read at a distance;
2. City Council approve the Commercial Dog Walker Permit annual fee schedule as outlined below, which pertains to individual dog walkers and larger dog walking businesses who employ numerous dog walkers:

Number of Commercial Dog Walkers				
1	2	3	4	5 +
\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$1000

Such fee schedule to be reviewed in 2008 and reviewed annually thereafter;

3. City Council direct the City Solicitor to make the necessary amendments to Chapter 441 of the Toronto Municipal Code, Fees, to include the annual fee schedule, as outlined above, for the issuance of a Commercial Dog Walker Permit(s);
4. City Council direct the City Solicitor to make the necessary amendments to Chapter 608 of the Toronto Municipal Code, Parks, generally in accordance with Attachment 2 of the report (June 19, 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, subject to any necessary minor substantive or stylistic refinements as may be identified by the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the City Solicitor;
5. The Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy be implemented effective as of the later of September 4th, 2007 and the day after the set fine order is issued by the province;

6. Prior to the implementation of the Commercial Dog Walker Permit 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;
7. The revenues generated from the Commercial Dog Walker Permit system be directed to Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division's operating budget to recover costs associated with administration of the system, as well as for park maintenance costs, by-law enforcement and signage of off leash areas; and
8. The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation be directed to conduct a review of the Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy in one year's time and report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on its effectiveness.

Financial Impact

Anticipated annual revenue from the sale of Commercial Dog Walker Permits is \$240,000.00. This is based on an annual fee of \$200.00 and a preliminary estimate of 1,200 Commercial Dog Walker Permits issued to individual commercial dog walkers. Currently Parks, Forestry and Recreation has no means of identifying company requests and will report back on this component in 2008 based on actual permits issued. These revenues would be used to partially offset anticipated annual divisional expenditures for administration of the permit system, new signage and park maintenance (e.g., maintenance of leash-free zones and turf repair). This program is intended to have no net impact on the Parks, Forestry and Recreation operating budget. There are no capital budget requirements arising from the implementation of the Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy.

Assuming that City Council adopts the report recommendations for a Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy, staff intends to begin implementation as soon as possible. In order to ensure that all of the necessary administrative systems are in place prior to implementation, the effective implementation date recommended is the later of September 4, 2007 and the day after the set fine order is issued by the province. Accordingly, adjustments to the Parks, Forestry and Recreation operating budget for implementation of this policy will be deferred until the 2008 operating budget cycle. Estimated revenues and expenditures will be reviewed annually, once the program is in operation.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agree with the financial impact information.

Summary

The proposed Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy is linked to the Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) Division's People, Dogs and Parks Strategy, which pertains to the provision of off-leash areas in City parks, greenspaces and waterfront areas. Managing the activities of commercial dog walkers will help ensure the safety and enjoyment of all park users and contribute to the overall success of the People, Dogs and Parks Strategy. The issues surrounding people, dogs, and parks have had a long history and need to be addressed through policy development and collaborative partnerships with all park users.

The objective of the proposed Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy and the associated

amendments to the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks, is to enable City staff to better manage and monitor the activities of commercial dog walkers to ensure that the number of dogs under their control at any one time is manageable and their activities do not interfere with the safety and enjoyment of other park users. Additionally, the Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy and revised Municipal Code requirements include enforcement mechanisms to ensure that all dogs being walked by commercial dog walkers are licensed and that these individuals and or companies obtain and carry a visible Commercial Dog Walker Permit when utilizing City Parks, greenspaces and waterfront areas for their activities.

The Commercial Dog Walker Permit will require all individual dog walkers and companies who walk from four to six dogs at any one time to obtain a permit issued by Parks, Forestry and Recreation. An annual permit payment fee of \$200.00 is being recommended for individual commercial dog walkers and an incremental fee range for larger dog walking companies as outlined in Attachment 1. The permit revenue will be allocated to Parks, Forestry and Recreation. The Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy, fee and system will be evaluated by staff in one year's time to determine its effectiveness.

At a public consultation session held on June 13, 2007 the commercial dog walkers in attendance reinforced the value of their presence as the eyes and ears of Toronto parks, greenspaces and waterfront areas. This group of responsible commercial dog walkers contribute to the safety of our parks and provide public education by promoting responsible dog ownership and appropriate dog etiquette.

The report recommends adoption of the proposed Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy, for commercial dog walkers using City of Toronto parks, greenspaces or waterfront areas, as outlined in Attachment 1.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-5227.pdf>

Communications

- (June 24, 2007) e-mail from Michelle Heywood (PE.New.PE7.4.1)
- (June 29, 2007) e-mail from Karen Clausen-Dockrill (PE.New.PE7.4.2)
- (June 29, 2007) e-mail from Susan Buckley (PE.Main.PE7.4.3)
- (July 2, 2007) e-mail from Yvette de Verteuil (PE.Main.PE7.4.4)
- (July 3, 2007) e-mail from Brenda Biseau (PE.New.PE7.4.5)
- (July 3, 2007) letter from Dr. Christine Elser and Barry Glaspell (PE.New.PE7.4.6)
- (July 3, 2007) letter from Caley Morris, Metro Dogstop (PE.New.PE7.4.7)

Council also considered the following:

- Report (July 16, 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation.
([PE7.4a](#))

Communications:

- (July 16, 2007) from Luan Egan, Toronto Unleashed. (PE7.4.8)
- (July 16, 2007) from Premika Ratnam, Chair, Play at the Park. (PE7.4.9)

Speakers

Gillian Morton

Mary Stead

Mary Helen Spence

Lara Willis, All Canadian Pet Services Network; and filed a submission

Ila Bossons

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

1. requested that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation report:
 - a. directly to Council at its meeting to be held on July 16, 2007 on:
 - i. What constitutes a repeat offender;
 - ii. A firm definition of “under their control”
 - iii. Setting the fee at \$200.00 per dog walker; and
 - iv. The rationale for moving from 5 to 6 dogs per walker; and
 - b. to the September 14, 2007 Parks and Environment Committee on the feasibility of introducing an appeal process to be heard by the Parks and Environment Committee;
 - c. to the Parks and Environment Committee on the feasibility of Commercial Dog Walkers being allowed to let up to three dogs off leash at a time in an off-leash area; and
2. referred the following to the Medical Officer of Health:

That Animal Services consider the feasibility of colour-coding Dog License Tags by year (i.e., 2007 – White, 2008 – Black, 2009 – Red) and the tag assigned to the dog being worn at all times.

Submitted Wednesday, July 4, 2007

Councillor Paula Fletcher, Chair, Parks and Environment Committee