



Nicole Frey &lt;nicole@animalfoodbank.org&gt;

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**Re: TNR Petition**

1 message

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**Nicole Frey** <nicole@animalfoodbank.org>

Tue, Jun 13, 2023 at 9:01 AM

To: Ramona Robins &lt;RamRob@medicinehat.ca&gt;

Cc: Kendall King &lt;kking@medicinehatnews.com&gt;, Brendan Miller &lt;brendan.miller@pattisonmedia.com&gt;

Thanks Ramona.

Why is the onus of getting these answers being pushed on to me, a community member, versus Council getting them on behalf of the community you serve?

If you are an advocate for TNR, and thus an advocate for the cats, what are you doing to help?

I always thought that the Council and the Mayor were to be a voice and advocates for their community but continually see that job pushed onto community members here.

Nicole

On Tue, Jun 13, 2023 at 8:55 AM Ramona Robins <RamRob@medicinehat.ca> wrote:

Hello again Nicole,

These are operational questions so the best person to address them is the City Manager - if it is ok with you I will pass these questions on to her for response. I just don't want to send your email on for response without your consent.

Thank you,

Ramona Robins  
Medicine Hat City Councillor  
ramrob@medicinehat.ca

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**From:** Nicole Frey <nicole@animalfoodbank.org>**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 8:53 AM**To:** Ramona Robins <RamRob@medicinehat.ca>**Cc:** Kendall King <kking@medicinehatnews.com>; Brendan Miller <brendan.miller@pattisonmedia.com>**Subject:** Re: TNR Petition

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Thanks Ramona,

What funding and resources will be flowing in the meantime to alleviate the pressure of the work and resources involved for organizations and community members in caring for the cats in the meantime? As I said in my original email, I can't even get an answer out of the City on the cost of leasing the old food bank building to store pet food. The cost of storing is on the shoulders of my husband and I, in our garage, which we then can't use for anything else. I've been asking the City for a lease rate for that building for almost a year and can't even get a reply (despite being given a tour at the onset).

Basically I'm looking for information on what action will be taken in the interim.

Nicole

On Tue, Jun 13, 2023 at 8:43 AM Ramona Robins <RamRob@medicinehat.ca> wrote:

Hello again Nicole,

I see that you have copied Kendall King and Brendan Miller on your response to my email so I'm copying her on this email as well.

I obviously cannot speak to the history of TNR in Medicine Hat as I have only been on Council since 2021. I can tell you that we spoke about the TNR bylaw at Public Services Committee yesterday as it was returned to our Outstanding Item List and we discussed how we could proceed after the discussion at Council and the rejection of the bylaw. We intend to discuss it further at our June 26 meeting as we have asked the City Solicitor if dividing up the two issues within the bylaw is sufficient to be a substantial difference in order to bring the bylaw back in less than 6 months which is the restriction on the legislation - the other alternative is a 2/3 majority of Council in order to allow it to be brought back for a vote. The PSC committee expressed the urgency in this matter and asked for a tight timeline to receive this information. As mentioned before the PSC committee sponsored the bylaw and I provided lots of information during the Council meeting about the origin of the bylaw coming from request from many cat-related humane groups in the City.

I hope that helps explain what the PSC committee is doing with the bylaw now that it has returned to Committee - I cannot give you any timeline about when or if this will be passed because it is entirely up to the members of Council who have already voted against the bylaw. For the bylaw to pass one or more of them would need to change their minds.

Ramona Robins  
Medicine Hat City Councillor  
ramrob@medicinehat.ca

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**From:** Nicole Frey <nicole@animalfoodbank.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 8:27 AM

**To:** Ramona Robins <RamRob@medicinehat.ca>

**Cc:** Kendall King <kking@medicinehatnews.com>; Brendan Miller <brendan.miller@pattisonmedia.com>

**Subject:** Re: TNR Petition

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Hi Ramona

Thank you for your reply.

It's been interesting watching Council members either completely ignore me, or reply with justification as to why the bylaw wasn't passed. It's like justification for the mishandling of this effort is more important than acknowledgement that it's been grossly mishandled by the City and accountability to do something, anything, in the interim for the cats and thus APARC and the SPCA and us, and the community members working tirelessly every day to feed and care for these cats with their own money and time and tears.

Notwithstanding the fact that this topic has been on the City's radar for ten years, that APARC - the City funded pound - is continually overflowing because the City has not allowed TNR, the fact that whoever did the wording of the bylaw did it wrong, that two issues were combined that had no business being combined and further speaks to the lack of understanding of the matter by whoever drafted the bylaw, the appalling fact that Council member Robert Dumanowski didn't even bother to look up what feral meant prior to last Mondays meeting which clearly shows his

view on the matters importance, or the fact that you all walked away from last Monday's meeting complacent with this being brought forward in another six months without any consideration for the welfare of the cats in the meantime, I do very much appreciate you voting in favor of TNR.

Can you please advise on the following two questions:

1. What are the City, and Council doing to ensure the TNR can be passed and when will that be? (A timeline with tasks/deliverables would be helpful)
2. What funding and resources will be flowing in the meantime to alleviate the pressure of the work and resources involved for organizations and community members in caring for the cats in the meantime? As I said in my original email, I can't even get an answer out of the City on the cost of leasing the old food bank building to store pet food. The cost of storing is on the shoulders of my husband and I, in our garage, which we then can't use for anything else. I've been asking the City for a lease rate for that building for almost a year and can't even get a reply (despite being given a tour at the onset).

What you are all doing, by not having a solid understanding and plan in place, and not speaking and committing to helping us all care for these cats in the interim, is saying you don't care. The money and support of these cats is coming from community members, not City coffers and that's appalling. It's a slap in the face and the message is you all can bear the burden of the City's inability to pass a bylaw that should not take this long to pass.

What are you going to do to alleviate that pressure on all of us while you await the reworded bylaw?

Thanks,

Nicole

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On Tue, Jun 13, 2023, 7:51 a.m. Ramona Robins <RamRob@medicinehat.ca> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for sending your opinion via email. As you may or may not know I voted for the TNR bylaw and I am the Chair of the Public Services Committee which was the sponsor of the by-law. It was defeated at Council and I requested that it return to the outstanding item list in Public Services so we could continue to work on the bylaw to see if we could make changes based on the discussion at Council so the bylaw has a better chance of success.

From what I have observed at Committee and Council the City's Administration has been very pro-active working with the humane societies and canvassing other cities and their TNR projects before recommending these bylaw changes. It was Council who voted the bylaw down so I don't think the criticism of the City staff is warranted. I think if you have feedback to offer it should be directed to those Councillors who did not vote for the by-law as personally I continue to believe in it and will work on it at Committee diligently with City staff to bring it back to Council.

Ramona Robins  
Medicine Hat City Councillor  
ramrob@medicinehat.ca

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**From:** Nicole Frey <nicole@animalfoodbank.org>

**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 7:43 AM

**To:** Mayor <mayor@medicinehat.ca>; Robert Dumanowski <ROBDUM@medicinehat.ca>; Cassi Hider <cashid@medicinehat.ca>; Darren Hirsch <darhir@medicinehat.ca>; Allison Knodel <allkno@medicinehat.ca>; Andy McGrogan <AndMcG@medicinehat.ca>; Ramona Robins <RamRob@medicinehat.ca>; Shila Sharps <shisha@medicinehat.ca>; Alison Van Dyke <alivan@medicinehat.ca>  
**Cc:** chatnews@pattisonmedia.com <chatnews@pattisonmedia.com>; Kendall King <kking@medicinehatnews.com>  
**Subject:** TNR Petition

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Good Morning,

We continue to be disappointed in this City's administration and their lack of urgency around the matter of feral cat colonies in Medicine Hat.

The community clearly shares our concern, **as we surpassed 1,000 signatures in under 72 hours with our petition** - <https://chnng.it/tyNdKGS6wg> and still no acknowledgement from the City about this initiative.

I invite you to read the comments. Community members are using their voice. Yet, the City remains silent. There are grumbings in our community about how dysfunctional this council is and you are not doing anything to dissuade this. There are grumbings about what the Mayor does, or doesn't do, - as she is never in the public eye and never seems to be "for the people". Your Council has an opportunity to make change here and end the suffering of community cats. Yet you all remain silent and seem to want to do nothing to become informed. I'm still appalled that a council member didn't even take the time to look up what feral meant prior to last Monday's meeting. There was a community member there wishing to speak about this issue, and you didn't even bother to come to the meeting prepared - that is not supporting your community.

I respectfully ask for you to advise your plan of action around this. Will this item be first on next weeks Council agenda? Are you planning a special Council meeting for this topic? Are you inviting any stakeholders to speak to the importance of TNR programs? Have you done any research on the matter? If you are not prepared to allow TNR programs, are you going to provide more funding to APARC and the SPCA and other organizations in Medicine Hat who continually have to work to deal with the consequences of your inaction? We (all 1,000 of us) want to know.

It is shameful for you to allow your community members to have to deal with the outfall of your continued inaction, with our own money, resources, time and tears, while you sit on Council and do nothing.

This seems to be a pattern with the City - I've been trying to get a conversation going with the City about leasing the old food bank building for our Animal Food Bank for almost a year but am continually ignored - all while it sits vacant and I have to store copious amounts of food in my garage. Food that is supporting the community, SPCA and even APARC - along with Alberta wildfire relief. Animal welfare seems to be something this administration doesn't care about. I hope I'm wrong, and moreso I hope you are willing to prove I am wrong.

The feral cats have been waiting ten years for you to take action. The suffering and death of innocent cats is on your hands with each day you continue to delay.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Nicole Frey

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Nicole Frey  
Founder  
Animal Food Bank Foundation  
Registered Non-Profit Organization  
[animalfoodbank.org](http://animalfoodbank.org)

*\*please note - I am recovering from a brain injury so please excuse any typos or grammatical errors.*

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Nicole Frey  
Founder  
Animal Food Bank Foundation  
Registered Non-Profit Organization  
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