



MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Second Floor Conference Room
Monday, February 15, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Marion Ignoffo & Bill Urquhart

Members Absent: Kevin Collins

Staff Present: CSO Manager D. Hayse, Recording Secretary K. Hodge

Others Present:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

I. Roll Call - Roll Call was taken. Commissioner Collins was absent.

II. Approve Minutes – Commissioner Urquhart made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Ignoffo seconded. The motion passed.

III. Action Items

1. Review Case #16-00166

The following persons indicated their presence: victim dog owner Mr. Christian Ramsey, and offending dog owners Mr. William Schneider and Mrs. Loretta Schneider. Commissioner Ignoffo summarized the report and asked Mr. Ramsey to describe the events as he remembered them.

Mr. Ramsey stated that he lives on Good. His dog, Sadie, is blind, 10-years-old and a 21-pound beige Cockapoo. On the evening of the incident, they were walking south on the west side of Hoffman, and noticed Mr. Schneider walking his dog north on the same sidewalk. Usually when he sees Mr. Schneider walking, Mr. Schneider walks on the other side of the street. Sadie was on Mr. Ramsey's left side and as they got closer to Mr. Schneider and his dog, they heard another dog down the block barking. Mr. Schneider's dog began to bark and as they passed each other Mr. Schneider's dog lunged at Sadie. Mr. Ramsey said he screamed, pulled at the dogs and kicked Mr. Schneider's dog. He was finally able to separate them and when he and Sadie returned home, he noticed Sadie had a 4-inch gash. He took her to the emergency vet in Skokie, and she required stitches and overnight observation. About two weeks after the incident, Sadie suddenly got sick, was not eating or drinking, and was spinning in circles. Mr. Ramsey took her back to the emergency vet, but they could not definitively determine what the problem was or if it was related to the bite. The next day, Mr. Ramsey took her to her primary vet and they did additional x-rays. The vet thinks it was a bad ear infection resulting from the antibiotics administered for the initial injury. Sadie is better now and the stitches were removed last week.

Mr. Ramsey added that at the time of the incident, the offending dog was on a retractable leash, and the owner couldn't control the dog well.

Mr. Schneider stated that his dog, Millie Tillie, is a 40-pound Beagle mix. He agreed with Mr. Ramsey's description of the events. At the time of the incident, Mr. Schneider did not realize his dog bit Sadie, but he stated that she has a tendency to act like a cat and when Millie Tillie leaped at Sadie her clawing probably caused some of the damage.

Commissioner Urquhart asked if Millie Tillie has ever bitten before. Mr. Schneider said no, he thinks she was in fear of something, perhaps the barking dog they heard in the distance, and acted out. Mr. Schneider also stated that Mr. Ramsey was right about the leash, and now he uses a standard 6-foot leash to better control the dog. Commissioner Urquhart added that the standard 6-foot leash is required by ordinance, and an owner cannot properly control a dog with a retractable leash.

Commissioner Ignoffo asked about Millie Tillie's age and any training. Mrs. Schneider stated that Millie Tillie is approximately 6-years-old, and she has not received any training. She was about 3 to 4-years-old when they acquired her.

Commissioner Urquhart stated that basic obedience training is important for every dog because it helps them socialize and teaches them to be around other dogs in noisy situations without reacting.

Commissioner Ignoffo read the "at-risk" portion of the animal ordinance, and explained that a list of all at-risk and dangerous dogs is posted on the Park Ridge Police Department's website.

Commissioner Ignoffo made a motion to deem the dog, Millie Tillie, "at-risk" and Commissioner Urquhart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Schneider asked if the Commission had any recommendations for a training class. Commissioner Urquhart stated that they should look for basic beginner obedience training, and the Park Ridge Park District, pet stores and dog training clubs offer classes. He added that if Millie Tillie comes before the Commission again, she could be deemed dangerous.

IV. Old Business

1. Briefing on #15-22742

CSO Manager Hayse stated that on December 13, 2015, two adult brothers were in the midst of a physical altercation in their home when their dog, a pit bull named Bubbles, attacked both of them, biting one on the arm and one on the leg. Both required medical attention. After the 10-day observation at the vet, the family requested that the vet euthanize the dog. Therefore, the case did not require review by the Commission. This was for information only.

2. Dogs off leash at parks

Commissioner Urquhart asked for an update regarding Commissioner Collins' complaint of dogs off-leash at parks not designated as dog parks. CSO Manager Hayse said he posted the information on the Department's blog to inform all personnel, and he also spoke with officers and CSO's about the issue. Some officers reported back that they checked and did not see any violations. When the weather warms up, the information will be reissued and addressed again.

Commissioner Urquhart stated that he recently got a call from a man that jogs by Hinkley pool and said that on Saturday mornings, people drive to the park with their dogs and let their dogs run free while the owners sit and have coffee. Commissioner Urquhart told him that he

can also call the police to inform them when it's happening. CSO Manager Hayse stated that if someone calls the police department, it is sent to dispatch and an officer will respond.

V. New Business

1. Cook County's Animal Ordinance

Recording Secretary Hodge provided commissioners with a copy of Cook County's Animal Ordinance. At a previous meeting, the commissioners were directed to consider updating the current Park Ridge ordinance if they felt it was necessary. The Cook County Ordinance was provided as a comparison. Commissioners were asked to review it, and it will be discussed at a future meeting.

2. Animal Commission Rules

Recording Secretary Hodge provided commissioners with a draft of some proposed rules that the Animal Commission could consider adopting. CSO Manager Hayse and City Attorney Adam Simon drafted the proposed rules, as the Commission currently does not have official rules. Commissioners were asked to review the document, and it will be discussed and possibly brought for action at a future meeting.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.