



MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Second Floor Conference Room
Monday, August 24, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Peg Morrisroe & Bill Urquhart

Members Absent:

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

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m.

- I. Roll Call** - Roll Call was taken. All members were present.
- II. Approve Minutes** – Commissioner Urquhart made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Morrisroe seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Action Items**

1. **Review Case #15-14125 (continued from 7/27/15 meeting)**

Rose Marpe, 70 S. Dee Road, was present for this case. Commissioner Morrisroe summarized the police report, and asked Ms. Marpe to clarify her relation to the incident. Ms. Marpe stated that she is the dog owner of offending dog, “Molly”. She stated that she was not home at the time of the event, and had nothing to add in regards to the incident. She clarified that she used to live at the residence of occurrence, but has since moved out with the dog and her kids. She stated that the victim was her former landlord, and the owner listed on the police report is her ex-boyfriend, Mr. Steven Harris, and the two may have been having a disagreement at the time of the bite, and that her dog was probably nervous. The dog, Molly, is just over a year old, very friendly and she has never had an issue like this before. Since the incident, she has spoken with the victim multiple times and he had a small scratch and was ok, but he had filed the report because of the confrontation he had with Mr. Harris.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked if Molly is up to date with vaccinations and underwent the 10-day quarantine. Ms. Marpe stated that due to personal issues going on at the time of the incident, Mr. Harris later gave her a copy of the ticket but did not inform her of anything else regarding the incident until he emailed her two days before this commission meeting to tell her she needed to go. Also, due to the personal issues, Molly is a few months behind on vaccinations, but is going to the veterinarian this week.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked if Ms. Marpe went to court, and she stated that she was not aware of the court and did not go.

Commissioner Urquhart asked if Molly has been to any training. Ms. Marpe stated that she has trained Molly, and she is good with kids. Both commissioners recommended that she take Molly to formal training so she can socialize. Additionally, Commissioner Morrisroe asked Ms. Marpe to provide proof of the vaccinations that Molly receives later in the week and proof of dog license purchase.

Commissioner Urquhart made a motion to not consider the dog “at risk” and dismiss the case. Commissioner Morrisroe seconded. Motion carried.

The Commissioners unanimously agreed that Molly was not “at-risk” or “dangerous.” The case was dismissed.

2. Review Case #15-17952

Dog sitter/witness Dan Rodriguez, 84 N. Dee Road, was present for this case. He stated that the dog owner was back in town but not able to attend the meeting. Commissioner Morrisroe summarized the police report and asked Mr. Rodriguez to explain the incident. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the owners told him there was a woman that walks her little dog past the house regularly, and she was the one involved in this incident. He stated that there is no gate on the driveway of the dog owner’s residence, but the dogs are secured in kennels outside during the day, except when he let them out when he checked on them. At night they are secured in the residence. On the day of the incident, he let the dogs out of their kennels and he saw the male dog “Mombo” run off and the female dog “Millie” followed. He did not see the incident but when he went to retrieve the dogs, the victim, Ms. Juvita Antillon, stated one of the dogs bit her finger. Mr. Rodriguez said that he told her if she goes to the doctor, the owners would pay the bills. He added that the dogs are good with kids and know their commands.

Commissioner Morrisroe stated that the dogs could be dog-aggressive. Commissioner Urquhart added that the dogs should not be loose because there is no fence on the driveway. Both commissioners wanted the owners to appear.

Commissioner Morrisroe made a motion to continue the case and request that the owners appear. Commissioner Urquhart seconded. The commission would select a new date and notify all parties involved.

IV. Old Business

The following individuals indicated their presence: John & Terri Berg, 1632 S. Fairview; John & Becky Large, 1628 S. Fairview; Ed & Claudia Chevere, 6209 N. Olcott, Chicago; Donna Kotty, 1245 N. Dee Rd. All parties indicated they were present in regards to the dog, Bowser, who the Commission determined to be “at risk” a few months ago.

In summary, Mr. Berg questioned why the dog, Bowser, bit dogs multiple times was only deemed to be “at risk” and not “dangerous”. Not only did one of the victims tell the Commission that their determination was not strong enough, but a citizen unrelated to any of the cases attended a meeting and questioned the commission’s determination as well. He stated that no one did anything, and then Bowser attacked his dog, ripped off the ear, bit into the sinus area of the face, crushed the skull, and exposed brain matter, and then punctured his wife’s finger as well. Mrs. Berg added that it took two men to

restrain the dog until police arrived. All parties present were concerned what if this had happened to a child.

Commissioner Morrisroe stated that there were no words to comfort the victims with the loss of their dog. She stated that the commission did not have a crystal ball to see something like this would happen. She stated that Bowser's owner is irresponsible, and everyone would probably agree with that. He did not attend any meetings, and had Bowser been classified as "dangerous", her feeling is he probably would not have been any more responsible in complying either.

Commissioner Urquhart stated that even if Bowser was deemed to be "dangerous", that may not have stopped this incident from happening.

Mr. Large commented on being careful when dogs are out, keeping them on leash. Mr. Chevere added that Bower's residence did not have a fence.

Mr. Berg commented that he did not feel the requirements of an "at risk" dog were serious enough and asked who was in charge of follow-up and verifying compliance. CSO Manager Hayse stated that it was his responsibility, and the owner had 90 days to prove compliance with training, but the 90 days had not expired yet. Also, he went to the residence multiple times to check on compliance with the microchip but the owner did not answer or children answered the door. Commissioner Morrisroe added that the commission has no power to enforce the compliance.

Discussion ensued about expecting to be able to safely walk with or without dogs in the neighborhood, the process of going through the animal commission, as well as how strict the requirements are. Commissioner Morrisroe recommended if residents wanted to see changes in the ordinance, to talk to their aldermen or go to City Council meetings.

CSO Manager Hayse stated that it is his responsibility to inspect the animals determined to be "at risk" and "dangerous" on an annual basis. After being on the "at risk" for two years, owners can come back to the commission and ask to have the classification removed, but no one has. Also, when dogs are deemed "at risk" or "dangerous", the owners have a chance to appeal the ruling with City Manager, but the City Manager has never reversed a decision.

Commissioner Urquhart commented that himself and the other people present were responsible dog owners, but there are some dog owners that do not care.

CSO Manager Hayse commented that he has been a police chief in two other towns and is a former president of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, and he has not seen restrictions like the ones the City of Park Ridge has on dog bites, nor has he seen an animal commission like this one. This is all a step above what most communities have.

Mr. Berg commended CSO Manager Hayse, Chief Kaminski and City Manager Hamilton for their work on the incident with his dog and Bowser.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.