



MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Second Floor Conference Room
Monday, October 26, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Kevin Collins, Marion Ignoffo & Bill Urquhart

Members Absent:

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

Others Present:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 September 28, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Ignoffo seconded. The motion passed.

III. Action Items

1. Review Case #15-22112

The following people indicated their presence: victim Ms. Eileen Peters, 307 N. Home, and victim Ms. Kathryn Sanetra, 225 N. Home. The dog owner, Mr. Timothy Pace, was not present.

Commissioner Urquhart read the report and asked the victims what happened. In summary, Ms. Peters stated that they were walking east on Cedar and a man pulled up in his car and said there was a loose Rottweiler out. The Rottweiler pinned her and her dog against a fence and tried to sniff her and put his mouth around her dog's neck twice. Another woman pulled up and tried to distract the Rottweiler calling him a "good boy." Then a man managed to get a seat cushion around the dog, who tried to jump at Ms. Peters and her dog, but the man pulled the dog back so that she could pick up her dog and move further away.

Commissioner Collins asked if the owner was notified of the meeting. Recording Secretary Hodge said a letter was sent to him. Commissioner Collins then asked Ms. Peters when the dog had her pinned, what exactly he was doing. Ms. Peters said the dog was not growling, but making sure he was in control. He was approximately 100 pounds. Ms. Sanetra stated that at first her dog, a lab mix, tried to fight back, but she and her dog were able to escape.

Commissioner Ignoffo asked if any of the dogs were injured. Ms. Peters and Ms. Sanetra said no. They added that they were concerned because if kids ran past the dog, he would have reacted and it could be a more serious incident.

Commissioner Urquhart made a motion to continue the case and notify the owner that he must attend the next meeting or the Commission will make a determination regardless of his presence. He added that the victims did not have to attend unless they wanted to, as the Commissioners have already heard their story.

2. **Review Case #15-22117**

The following people indicated their presence: victim Mr. Kevin Maring, 631 Parkwood, and dog owner Mr. Bruce Schinelli, 627 Parkwood.

Commissioner Urquhart read the report and asked Mr. Schinelli about his dog. In summary, Mr. Schinelli stated that his dog is a 6-year-old, male Cane Corso. He is neutered, has been to obedience school and used to go to the dog park. Commissioner Urquhart asked if he is around kids. Mr. Schinelli said that the dog has grown up with two kids in the house.

Commissioner Urquhart asked Mr. Maring what happened. Mr. Maring stated that he knows the dog, but not well. His fence is 5.5 feet tall and an older fence, and he has two Boston Terriers that jump against it also. Commissioner Urquhart asked if the dog bit him or when the dog jumped up was his mouth open with his teeth exposed? Mr. Maring stated that he looked over the fence and the dog bopped him in the face and the teeth came down on his nose. Commissioner Collins asked Mr. Maring if he was ok or if he feared the dog. Mr. Maring said he was ok. Mr. Schinelli said his dog was patrolling his yard, and he is a protective dog. Commissioner Urquhart stated that when most dogs jump their mouth is open, and in this case Mr. Maring's face happened to be right there.

Commissioner Urquhart made a motion to dismiss the case. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Old Business

Recording Secretary Hodge updated the commission on Case #15-21401, "Rico." Per City Attorney Simon, the dog owner filed an appeal and the City Attorney directed the Commission to schedule a meeting to continue the case and hear the owner's testimony. He stated that victims and witnesses should be invited to attend and be allowed to respond to the owner's testimony, but any previous testimony is now a matter of record and can be used when making a final decision on the case.

Two new meeting dates, November 23 and November 30, were set for the continuation of #15-21401, as well as continued Case #14-22112 and a new case.

V. New Business

CSO Manager Hayse suggested the Commission create a checklist to help determine exactly what cases should go before the Commission. All commissioners agreed.

Brief discussion ensued regarding updating or amending the current ordinance, and the difference between adjudication and the Animal Commission hearing.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.