



MINUTES

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

DRAFT

Members Present: Peg Morrisroe & Bill Urquhart

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Recording Secretary K. Hodge

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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 May 18, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Morrisroe seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Action Items**

1. **Review Case #15-08250**

This case was continued from the May 18, 2015 meeting. Victim owner Mr. Larry Kaczmarik and reporting party/witness Ms. Ewa Krzyzewski were present. Commissioner Urquhart stated that Deputy Chief Dave Keller of the Park Ridge Police Department contacted him multiple times regarding the status of the owner and explaining the lack of notifying the victims of the adjudication date.

Mr. Kaczmarik said he was also contacted, and Deputy Chief Keller explained the situation and that the police are not bill collectors, but Deputy Chief Keller did get copies of the vet bills, forwarded them on to the dog owner, Mr. Sean Zuley, and said that Mr. Zuley still has the dog and will be attending the Animal Commission meeting.

Commissioner Morrisroe stated that the owner, Mr. Zuley was not present, but she would wait until 6:15 p.m. for him to arrive. Commissioner Urquhart stated that the last time he talked to Deputy Chief Keller, the owner said he would be at the meeting.

2. **Review Case #15-08975**

This case was continued from the May 18, 2015 meeting. Witness Ms. Laura Liveris was present on behalf of victim owner Ms. Marissa Liveris. Witness Ms. Liveris thanked the police department for contacting them and attempting to help mitigate the bill payment. She asked for clarification on the adjudication process and what action the Animal Commission could take. Recording Secretary K.

Hodge explained the adjudication process, how it was strictly for the citations issued, and that the adjudication officer could not force the dog owner to pay the bills. Commissioner Morrisroe clarified the determinations of “not at-risk”, “at-risk”, and “dangerous” that the Commission could make. Ms. Liveris commented on the dog not being at fault but the owner not properly controlling the dog.

Dog owner Mr. Zuley did not appear for the second time in a row. Due to the biting dog being the same in both listed cases, the Commissioners combined the cases in making a motion and ruling. Commissioner Urquhart made a motion to classify the dog, Bowser, as “at-risk”. Commissioner Morrisroe seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Urquhart then clarified the determination and read Section 5-8-26 of Park Ridge Municipal Code, summarizing the requirements in place when a dog is deemed “at-risk”. Mr. Kaczmarik commented that it was not strict enough, and he did not think the owner would comply. Commissioner Morrisroe stated that as Mr. Zuley completes each requirement, he must show proof and compliance, and the police department follows up on the “at-risk” animals and owner compliance. She also stated that if he does not comply, she believed the City could fine him. Recording Secretary Hodge offered to speak to City Attorney Kathie Henn for clarification on fines and compliance.

Mr. Kaczmarik, Ms. Krzyzewski, and Ms. Liveris all commented on how dangerous they felt the dog was and they did not feel the Commission’s finding was strong enough. They also said they did not have confidence that Mr. Zuley would comply. Commissioner Morrisroe stated that if Bowser has another incident that comes before the Commission, they can make another determination, even if it is years from now. Ms. Liveris commented that Bowser did have two incidents already, both cases that were just ruled on. Commissioner Morrisroe also reminded them that the victim owners/witnesses were able to walk and touch Bowser, and he did not try to hurt any of them, nor show any aggression towards them. Bowser bit other dogs, not people, and the safety of a human comes before that of a dog. Commissioner Morrisroe added that even if the Commission classified Bowser as “dangerous”, it is still the responsibility of the owner to comply.

Discussion ensued on the pit bull breed and if they are trainable.

Mr. Kaczmarik asked if Bowser, or any “at-risk” or “dangerous” dogs would be allowed to join a dog park. Commissioner Morrisroe stated that City Council would need to establish an ordinance on that. Ms. Liveris asked if they could make a recommendation that dog parks not allow “at-risk” or “dangerous” dogs, and Commissioner Morrisroe recommended they take that issue up with Council.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.