



MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Second Floor Conference Room
Monday, July 13, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

DRAFT

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 5:55 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 June 29, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Morrisroe seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Action Items**

1. **Review Case #15-12347 (continued from 6/29/15)**

The following people indicated their presence: dog owner Ms. Marta Jedliczka, witness Mr. German Maldonado, and victim Ms. Ginger Leigh. Commissioner Morrisroe gave a brief summary of the police report, and asked victim Ms. Leigh to provide her version of the incident.

Ms. Leigh stated that she was invited into the owner's home, sat on the couch with the owner's son, and the dog was barking in another room of the house she thought. The owner was deciding how to introduce the dog, Bronco, and the son said the dog should be put on leash. Ms. Leigh told them a leash was not necessary and to just let the dog in. The owner let Bronco in and the dog charged at Ms. Leigh, she put her arms up in front of her face, and Bronco bit her elbow. Ms. Jedliczka pulled Bronco off but he got loose and bit Ms. Leigh's hand. Ms. Jedliczka then put Bronco in a crate next to the couch. Ms. Leigh stated that she still stayed and cleaned her arm, and Ms. Jedliczka was emotional and kept saying she was sorry. Once the bleeding stopped, Ms. Leigh still wanted to work with Bronco because she felt the dog could and should be trained. While Bronco was in the cage, she gave him commands and rewarded him with treats. Once Bronco was calm, Ms. Leigh wanted the owners to let him out of the crate to try to interact again. She sat on the couch between Ms. Jedliczka and Ms. Jedliczka's son, and Bronco came out, sat, licked Ms. Leigh and wanted to be petted. Ms. Leigh stated that she and Ms. Jedliczka communicated via email after the incident. Ms. Leigh stated she still wanted to pet sit, but she could not work after the bite, so had to hire someone else to take over her dog walking

duties and then asked Ms. Jedliczka for \$200 for remuneration. She was not sure Ms. Jedliczka would do that, and then they stopped talking. Ms. Leigh then filed a report on June 4, 2015.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked Ms. Jedliczka if she concurred with Ms. Leigh's account of the incident. Ms. Jedliczka said it happened a little differently. She stated that Bronco was in the backyard, and she advised Ms. Leigh that he was a little anxious and she was not sure how he would react. Ms. Jedliczka stated that she suggested Bronco be put on a leash, and Ms. Leigh said no. Ms. Jedliczka stated that Bronco is very protective of the family and not socialized, mostly homebound. When she let him in the house, he knew someone was there and ran in and bit Ms. Leigh. Bronco bit Ms. Leigh twice before Ms. Jedliczka was able to secure him in the crate. She was upset and helped Ms. Leigh tend to the bites. The day after the incident, Ms. Jedliczka made contact with Ms. Leigh to see how she was, and Ms. Leigh told her she was going to urgent care because the wound would not stop bleeding. Ms. Jedliczka was confused because it did stop bleeding while Ms. Leigh was at the residence. Ms. Jedliczka stated that they communicated a few times, and she was hesitant to hire Ms. Leigh as a pet sitter because Ms. Leigh started asking questions about Ms. Jedliczka's homeowner's policy and she felt that was a red flag. Ms. Jedliczka stated that Ms. Leigh then asked for payment to hire someone to help her with her other dog walking jobs, and although Ms. Leigh did not provide proof of hiring someone else, Ms. Jedliczka agreed and asked Ms. Leigh for her zip code to mail payment but never received a response.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked how old Bronco was and if he was neutered and ever socialized. Ms. Jedliczka stated that Bronco was 2 years old, neutered and not socialized. Her son has had friends over, but since the incident, they always put Bronco in the crate or in another room. Commissioner Urquhart asked if Bronco ever had an issue with the kids or bitten before. Ms. Jedliczka said no, and now she also has a muzzle. She added that Ms. Leigh knew she did not have an animal license and was kind enough to drop the paperwork off for them to get one. Also, they had previously took him to a training class in Des Plaines but dropped out of the class.

Commissioner Urquhart stated that Bronco should have been introduced on leash because a dog's protective instinct kicks in on their territory. Ms. Leigh stated she has never been introduced to a dog on leash in their own home. Commissioner Morrisroe stated that the leash gives the owner control.

Ms. Jedliczka stated that since the incident, her family went out of town and they boarded Bronco in Des Plaines. She checked in on him regularly, and was informed that he was the star dog. Commissioner Morrisroe stated that he would still benefit from training because he is still young and if the son continues to have friends around, they do not want a repeat incident. Both commissioners agreed Bronco needs the socialization.

Discussion ensued regarding collars and harnesses, socialization and training, and Bronco being around kids and the owner's son's friends. The commissioners gave a brief synopsis of what the classification of being "at risk" entails.

Commissioner Morrisroe made a motion to classify Bronco as being "at risk". Commissioner Urquhart seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Review Case #15-13396

Commissioner Morrisroe gave a brief summary of the police report. The victim, a postal worker, was not present. Dog owner Ms. Marciella Grande was present, and Commissioner Morrisroe asked her to describe what happened. Ms. Grande stated that her dog, Brook, is a Miniature Pinscher/Sheep Dog mix and a rescue. On the day of the incident, Ms. Grande had HVAC workers at the house, and she was not aware that they had left the door open until she heard her dog barking and Ms. Grande ran outside and saw the dog bit the victim's arm. Ms. Grande asked the victim if she needed anything and the victim said no. At approximately 5 p.m. that evening, the victim's supervisor called to say the victim was going to the ER.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked if Brook has had any problems before. Ms. Grande stated that if threatened, the dog will go after someone. Before they had a fence there was an issue with some neighbors chasing Brook with a shovel and she tried to bite one of them. Ms. Grande clarified that Brook had no problems with the HVAC workers that were in and out of the house that day.

Commissioner Urquhart asked if the dog was socialized. Ms. Grande said she socializes with other dogs and her daughter often has friends over that interact with the dog. The dog sometimes jumps and barks, but once she smells them she is ok. If any of the friends are scared of dogs, they put the dog in another room or take her out.

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 Brook was not "at-risk" or "dangerous." The case was dismissed.

IV. Old Business

Commissioner Urquhart inquired about possible review of the cases involving Bowser. Commissioner Morrisroe commented that they may have to wait the 90 days to see if the owner complies with the regulations of being deemed an "at risk" animal. Recording Secretary Hodge stated she would speak to the City Attorney regarding reviewing cases.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.