



MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Second Floor Conference Room
Monday, November 30, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

DRAFT

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 6:01 p.m.

I. Roll Call - Roll Call was taken. All members were present.

II. Approve Minutes – Commissioner Ignoffo made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 23, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Urquhart seconded. The motion passed.

III. Action Items

1. Review Case #15-22192

The following person indicated their presence: dog owner Ms. Joanna Lopuski. Commissioner Ignoffo summarized the report. CSO Manager Hayse stated that the victim, Mr. James Kolz, was not going to be attending the meeting, but he related to CSO Manager Hayse that the owners paid to replace his shirt and sent him copies of paperwork verifying the dog's up-to-date vaccinations. Mr. Kolz also asked that the dog not be deemed "at-risk" or "dangerous."

Ms. Lopuski stated that she had a letter from her dog's day care's behavior specialist stating that the dog is friendly and not aggressive, and that the dog likes to run, play and nip without doing harm. Ms. Lopuski stated that her mother was babysitting when her kids opened the door and her dog ran out. The victim was running on the sidewalk and she thinks her dog just wanted to play. It was more of a scratch than a bite.

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

2. Review Case #15-22422

The following person indicated their presence: dog owner Ms. Cindy Moskal. CSO Manager Hayse stated that he left two messages for the victim, with no response. Ms. Moskal stated that she allowed her neighbor's child to hold her dog Slate on his leash while she was talking to the child's mother. The victim was walking by when Slate took off after him and nipped him. She said she will not allow kids to hold Slate's leash anymore. Ms. Moskal stated that she talked to Slate's vet and asked if training would help, but the vet said the best option would be avoidance. Ms. Moskal added that Slate was rescued from a kill shelter and she does not know much about her background.

Commissioner Collins asked if Slate ever bit anyone before. Ms. Moskal said yes, last year. Commissioner Urquhart stated that Slate was before the Commission earlier this year, and the case was dismissed. The victim refused treatment and was adamant he did not want citations issued, his only concern was the dog being up-to-date on shots. Ms. Moskal said that in the first case, she was picking up after her dog and the victim and his sons walked up behind her and Slate jumped and nipped the victim, but the victim did not go to the Animal Commission meeting.

Commissioner Collins stated he was inclined to deem the dog at-risk because this was her second appearance before the Commission in a year. He added that the bites would look a lot worse if Slate was a bigger dog. Commissioner Ignoffo added the bite could be worse if either victim was a kid. Ms. Moskal asked what it meant to be deemed at-risk, and Commissioner Ignoffo read the ordinance on at-risk animals.

Commissioner Urquhart asked if the dog was male or female, neutered or spayed, and trained. Ms. Moskal clarified that Slate is a spayed female, and she has not had training before.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to deem the dog, Slate, “at-risk” and Commissioner Urquhart seconded the motion. All the Commissioners unanimously agreed that the dog was “at-risk”.

Ms. Moskal asked if the Commission knew of a good training class. Commissioner Urquhart stated that the Park Ridge Park District offers training classes.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

Commissioner Collins stated that many times he sees groups of people gather at Jaycee Park and let their dogs off leash to run and play, and Jaycee Park is not a dog park. He asked if there was a way to make sure the leash ordinance was being enforced. CSO Manager stated that the police department usually addresses issues on complaint, but he could issue a notice for special enforcement. CSO Manager Hayse stated that they could provide department members with the information, and when they have time, they can check enforcement at the park. Commissioner Ignoffo added that those are the times when dog bites can occur, when those dogs are off leash.

Recording Secretary Hodge provided a chart that would be similar to one that could be published on the website regarding the current dangerous and at-risk dogs in town. The chart included the animals name, breed, color and the hundred block that they live on. It would be reviewed with the City Attorney before publishing. All commissioners approved of the chart as long as it was approved by the City Attorney.

Commissioner Ignoffo stated that it would help to know when a dog is making a repeat appearance at the Animal Commission. CSO Manager Hayse stated that a spreadsheet was started with all the dogs’ names that have been before the Commission. Commissioner Ignoffo offered to keep the list updated for the Commission’s use.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.