



MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Second Floor Conference Room
Monday, June 29, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Peg Morrisroe & Bill Urquhart

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Recording Secretary K. Hodge

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 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 15, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Morrisroe seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Action Items**

1. **Review Case #15-12347**

Neither the victim nor the owner were present. Case continued to July 13, 2015 Animal Commission Meeting.

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

Commissioner Morrisroe gave a brief summary of the police report. Dog owner Ms. Barbara Gustafson was present, and Commissioner Morrisroe asked her to describe what happened. Ms. Gustafson stated that the victim and his mother have lived next door for the past year and the kids in the area often play with their dog Lovie G. Lovie G is a 7 year old female Lhasa Apso that is spayed. On the day of the incident, Lovie G picked some food up off the grass and the victim got in her face and tried to take the food out of her mouth with his hand. The dog has never bitten before.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked if the dog was off leash and the extent of the victim's injuries. Ms. Gustafson stated that the dog was off leash, and the victim was bleeding. He was taken to the doctor and given an anti-biotic, but he did not need stitches. He came back later that day and continued to play with the kids in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Urquhart asked if the dog owners have spoken to the victim's mother, who was not present for the incident. Ms. Gustafson stated that she has, and they reimbursed her for the doctor bills and gave the victim a small monetary gift.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked if the victim and dog have seen each other since the incident. Ms. Gustafson said they have seen each other, but they won't let them get close to each other. The other kids in the neighborhood, ages six months to 10 years, continue to interact with the dog. Commissioner Urquhart recommended that Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson tell the kids they should not get in the dog's face, and if she has something in her mouth, to tell her owners. Commissioner Morrisroe recommended that they keep the dog on a leash when she is in a common area around the kids.

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

Commissioner Morrisroe recommended the dog and the victim meeting each other again in a controlled situation so the victim does not develop a fear of dogs. She also added that if the dog bites again, it may not be dismissed.

IV. Old Business

Pat Livensparger, resident of Park Ridge, was present and stated that she read the minutes from the May 18, 2015 and June 15, 2015 Animal Commission meetings regarding the offending dog, "Bowser", from two separate incidents. She questioned why the cases were dropped at adjudication, and why this dog was not deemed "dangerous." Commissioner Urquhart stated that the Commission considers many different things in determining the dog's status, but the greater importance is the safety of the human, and this particular dog did not harm any person, even when they opened his mouth to release the bite on the other dogs.

Discussion ensued regarding dog owner responsibilities and whether residents need to notify the City when they get rid of their dogs.

Ms. Livensparger asked if the Commission could provide a follow up on the compliance in the cases involving Bowser at future meetings, so they are documented in the minutes for the residents to be aware. The Commissioners discussed having the City's Animal Liaison provide follow up information on any and all outstanding "at-risk" and "dangerous dogs".

V. New Business

None.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.