



**CITY OF PARK RIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Mayor's Conference Room
Monday, March 4, 2013
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: MaryAnn Gobbo, Bill Urquhart & Peg Morrisroe

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: CSO Coordinator C. Brown, CSO K. Poirier, and Recording Secretary K. Delk

Others Present: Craig Adams, Park Ridge Journal

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 February 25, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Morrisroe seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Action Items**

- 1. Review Case #13-03162**

The Commissioners discussed the background on the case.

Mr. Murphy, the victim, stated that the police report (as read) was accurate. He was out running and it was dark outside. He started to slow down and saw a dog approaching him. The dog was not growling, but was about five feet away from him. Mr. Murphy began running again and as he traveled about 2-3 paces, he heard a bark and was then bit. The dog did not seem upset.

The Commission noted that if Mr. Murphy would have remained stopped, and not begun to run, the dog probably would not have bit him – the chase effect.

Mr. Madden, Toby's owner, stated that this was very uncharacteristic of Toby. He apologized to Mr. Murphy for what happened. Typically, Toby only barks when people approach the house. He is a very friendly, 11 year old male. He has been neutered. He does not have any known health issues.

Chairwoman Gobbo asked if Toby has been to any obedience training. Mr. Madden stated that he has not and that he does not normally walk Toby with a leash, but that his wife does.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked why he didn't approach the owner after the bite. Mr. Murphy stated that he left the scene because the dog was not on leash.

Mr. Murphy stated that a friend of his told him that this dog was involved in a similar incident recently. His friend was walking and he put his teeth around the friend. The skin was not punctured. The friend provided a similar description matching Toby's. Mr. Madden stated that this was not true. Toby has never been involved in any other incidents such as this. The Commissioners stated that there is no police report to prove that this occurred.

The Commissioners told Mr. Madden to not walk Toby without a leash. It is against the law. He needs to use a 6' leash – not a retractable leash. Mr. Madden stated that he understands and uses a leash now.

Chairwoman Gobbo and Commissioner Urquhart explained the way in which the dogs heal with their owners in their obedience classes.

Chairwoman Gobbo stated that Mr. Madden would be taking a huge risk by continuing to walk Toby without a leash.

The Commissioners agreed to dismiss this case. Toby is neither "at-risk" nor "dangerous." The Commissioners warned Mr. Madden about what would happen if Toby bit again and explained the "at-risk" and "dangerous" requirements.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.