



**CITY OF PARK RIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Mayor's Conference Room
Monday, March 19, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: MaryAnn Gobbo, Bill Urquhart & Peg Morrisroe

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

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. Roll Call - Roll Call was taken and all Commissioners were present.

II. Approve Minutes

III. Action Items

1. Review Case #12-03415

At the start of the meeting, neither the victim nor offender was present at the meeting. The Commissioners discussed the background on the case. The Commissioners had several questions including: Why was the victim at the residence? Did the victim ask permission to pet the dog? Is the dog up to date with its shots? How old is the dog?

CSO Coordinator Brown stated that the dog is up to date with its shots and does have a current Park Ridge Animal Tag.

It was determined that this dog is not an "at risk" or "dangerous" dog. The case was dismissed. The vote was unanimous.

After the vote was taken, the victim's mother (Ms. Danuta Motyka) and offenders (Mr. and Mrs. Ruth Major) arrived at the meeting. The Commissioners decided to re-open the case and began asking questions.

Mrs. Major explained that Michael Motyka was visiting the residence in order to see his sister who he had not seen in five months. Ms. Major is the legal guardian of Ms. Motyka's daughter. She then provided background on the domestic situation between her, Mr. Major and Ms. Motyka. The Commissioners reminded both parties that they were present to discuss the dog bite and that it was not necessary to discuss the complicated domestic matters.

Ms. Major stated that Macy is a 2 ½ year old Wheaton Terrier and this was the first visit between Macy and Michael. Macy jumped up on Michael and scratched his face. There was a small amount of blood as a result.

Ms. Motyka stated that she made an effort to find out if Macy was up to date with its shots and had difficulties. She ultimately was able to find out that Macy was indeed up to date with its shots.

Ms. Major confirmed that Macy received its three-year shot, but that the shot was expired at the time of the bite.

The conversation began to escalate and CSO Coordinator Brown called for Police assistance. The Commission meanwhile attempted to explain the role of the Animal Commission. The Commission also stated that prior to their arrival, the Commissioners had voted to dismiss the case.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked if Macy had been through a formal obedience class. Mr. Major stated that Macy attended a class at Pet Smart as a puppy. Commissioner Morrisroe stated that it might be a good idea for Macy, as well as the owners, if she attended a refresher course. The Commissioners explained that if Macy had a second incident, they would enforce an obedience class.

The Commissioners again determined that this dog is not an “at risk” or “dangerous” dog. The case was dismissed. The vote was unanimous.

2. Review Case #12-03189

At the time of discussion, neither the victim nor offender was present at the meeting. The Commissioners discussed the background on the case and determined that they were unable to make a decision without having anyone present at the meeting.

While the Commission cannot force a victim, witness or offender to attend an Animal Commission meeting, they asked that Staff send a follow up letter to the owner again requesting his attendance at the meeting. Failure to attend the meeting would result in the Commission making a determination without his input.

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

None

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.