



MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Mayor's Conference Room
Monday, October 21, 2013
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: MaryAnn Gobbo, Bill Urquhart & Peg Morrisroe

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: CSO Poirier and 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. All members were present.

II. Approve Minutes – Commissioner Urquhart made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Morrisroe seconded. The motion passed.

III. Action Items

1. Review Case #13-19262

Mr. Bielecki stated that he was washing his car inside the garage. His dog was off leash and stated running away from him. He saw someone playing in his bushes, in the same location where his dog was running towards. He yelled and chased after his dog, and ultimately got control of his dog. At no time did he hear any screaming or any commotion.

Mr. Bielecki's dog, Szarik, is one year and three months old. He is a healthy male German Shepard who is not neutered.

Chairwoman Gobbo asked if Szarik had ever received any formal obedience training. Mr. Bielecki and his son Arthur stated that he was home trained as a puppy. He has a playful temperament. He generally barks at strangers and once he smells them he is okay.

Ms. Hubbard, mother of the victim, Isaac, stated that her son was outside playing when she heard a scream from inside the house. Isaac was lying on the ground crying. She observed blood on his leg. She assumed that the dog most likely got through the gate into their yard. Isaac stated that when he noticed that the dog was quickly approaching him, he tried to run in order to leave the area and get safely inside. He stated that the dog was barking a little.

Mr. Bielecki stated that he would be fencing in his entire yard.

Chairwoman Morrisroe encouraged the Bielecki's to introduce Szarik to Isaac so he knows that Isaac is a friend and not a stranger or threat. Isaac stated that he is not afraid of dogs, in fact, he loves dogs.

The Commissioners highly encouraged the Bielecki's to sign up for obedience training for Szarik as soon as possible not only for the obedience factor, but also for socializing with other dogs.

Commissioner Urquhart stated that Szarik was doing a chase response when running after Isaac. He provided tips for Isaac and his mom if the situation presents itself again.

Chairwoman Gobbo stated that while the Commissioners will most likely dismiss this case, the repercussions for coming before the Commission for the second time are much greater. She explained the requirements for an at-risk and dangerous dog.

Commissioner Morrisroe encouraged getting Szarik neutered as it can bring down the dogs temperament and is also good for his overall health.

The Commissioners all agreed that Szarik is not at-risk or dangerous and decided to dismiss the case.

2. Review Case #13-18792

No one on either side was in attendance for this case. The Commissioners asked that Staff find out the findings from the adjudication hearing and continue this case to next week's meeting.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

Chairwoman Gobbo asked if Staff could maintain a database of all of the dog bites since the Commission formed. This way, it would be easier to track if a case has previously been before the Commission.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.