



**CITY OF PARK RIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Mayor's Conference Room
Monday, July 11, 2011
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: MaryAnn Gobbo, Bill Urquhart & Peg Morrisroe

Staff Present: CSO Coordinator C. Brown

Others Present: Craig Adams, Park Ridge Journal

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

II. Approve Minutes – Commissioner M. Gobbo made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2011 meeting. Commissioner B. Urquhart seconded. The motion carried.

III. Action Items

Commissioner M. Gobbo motioned to review Case #11-12962 first. The motion carried.

1. Review Case #11-12962

The Commissioners discussed the background on the case and asked that the victim, Ms. Lullo, to describe what happened. After providing a description of the injury to her dog, she described her interaction with Mr. Ziolk. Mr. Ziolk picked up the hind legs of his dog and advised Ms. Lullo that she should do that if his dog ever attacked hers again. Commissioner M. Gobbo stated that Mr. Ziolk was accurate his method, but understands that Ms. Lullo would not be comfortable confronting his dog. She presented him with the vet bills and tried to settle the matter with a money exchange, but Mr. Ziolk told the Lullo's that since it was an accident, he was not interested in offering any money. He was not apologetic and did not understand why the Lullo's were asking anything from him. The owner of the pitbull, Monica Baut, Mr. Ziolk's roommate, was present at the meeting and apologized for the actions of her pitbull and insisted that she always leaves her dog on a leash, but she was not home at the time of the attack. She was upset with Mr. Ziolk for taking him off the leash. The yard is not currently fenced. Commissioner M. Gobbo stated that she considers the dog to be a risk. The dog should be trained so if a door opens, no matter who is at home with the dog, if you announce a command, the dog will obey. These dogs are not trained. Commissioner B. Urquhart agreed and stated his concern wondering what would have happened if instead of the dog walking by, it was a young child and the dog had attacked the child. Commissioner M. Gobbo asked if the pitbull had ever attacked before. Ms. Baut stated that it had not. Commissioner M. Gobbo asked if the dog had ever been to training. Ms. Baut stated that she trained her dog by herself. Ms. Baut told the Commissioners that Mr. Ziolk was drunk at the time of the incident and that was why the attack happened. Commissioner P.

Morrisroe asked whether or not Blanka was spayed. Ms. Baut stated that she was. Both dogs are up to date on their vaccines. Neither of the dogs, Blanka or Boomer, are licensed in Park Ridge. Commissioner M. Gobbo asked victims how they felt when their dog was attacked. They were scared and stated that it was difficult to watch their dog be attacked. Commissioner M. Gobbo would have liked to see the yard be fenced in, but since Ms. Baut and Mr. Ziolko are renters, it would be difficult to ask that of them. The Commissioners felt that the dogs should be considered 'at-risk' at the minimum. Commissioner M. Gobbo recommended that these dogs be trained properly. Commissioner M. Gobbo asked Ms. Baut what she feels her responsibility is to the community in regards to her dog. She stated that she always has her dog on a leash and that her dog is well trained. Commissioner B. Urquhart asked whether Ms. Baut walked her dog in public. She said she does. Commissioner M. Gobbo stated that both dogs must be declared "at-risk" and go to formal obedience training and present a certificate of completion to the Commission. Both of the dogs need to be micro-chipped and be securely leashed and in control of the owner. The leash cannot be longer than 6' in length. Tired dogs are happy dogs. Pitbulls are considered to be part of the "bully breed." Since the yard is not fenced, the owner must make an extra effort to exercise the dog.

After discussion concluded, it was determined that this dog should be classified as "at risk." The vote was unanimous.

CSO Coordinator C. Brown stated that the other dog, "Boomer" is being removed from the residence on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 since Mr. Ziolko is currently in jail. Ms. Baut currently has an order of protection against Mr. Ziolko not allowing Mr. Ziolko at the residence. C. Brown will follow up with Ms. Baut on Thursday. If she is in possession of both dogs on Thursday, Ms. Baut will be considered responsible for both dogs. The 911 Center will also be notified that her dogs are considered "at-risk." If the dog does bite again, she will be required to go through this procedure again.

Court will be held on August 9, 2011 in the Park Ridge Council Chambers.

2. Review Case #11-10482

The Commissioners discussed the background on the case and asked that the offenders describe what happened. The young girl entered the apartment uninvited and unaccompanied by an adult. The dog chased the young girl through the apartment. Dogs naturally have an instinct to chase. Commissioner M. Gobbo felt that the dog does not seem dangerous to her. The dog is just being a dog. C. Brown stated that the dog is now licensed and is scheduled to return to the vet to update its vaccinations. The dog is also spayed. The Commissioners suggested not letting the victim enter the apartment without making sure the dog is supervised and controlled. They suggested that the owners have the dog lie down and then have the young girl approach/pet the dog. They also suggested rewarding the dog when the young girl visits and behaves well around her. The owners may want to consider taking their dog to a group training session, since it only received private training lessons. Socialization is important for dogs. Commissioner B. Urquhart described the importance of this training. The Commission stated that the training is not mandatory.

After discussion concluded, it was determined that the dog should not be classified as "at-risk" or "dangerous."

Court will be held on August 9, 2011 in the Park Ridge Council Chambers.

IV. Old Business

Commissioner B. Urquhart asked for a status update on Case #10-20974 – dog deemed “at-risk.” C. Brown stated that Mr. Basile did board the dog for a 2 week training session, but she has not heard from him since. He has still not purchased the license or paid tickets. C. Brown asked the Commissioners how they would like her to follow up. Commissioner M. Gobbo suggested sending a certified letter to help determine if the dog is still in Park Ridge. Commissioner B. Urquhart stated that if the dog is no longer in Park Ridge, then the case should be dropped. Commissioner P. Morrisroe suggested calling Alex to find out if he has the dog and if any follow-up has been done.

V. New Business

None

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.