



**CITY OF PARK RIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Mayor's Conference Room
Monday, September 12, 2011
6:00 p.m.**

DRAFT

Members Present: MaryAnn Gobbo, Bill Urquhart & Peg Morrisroe
Staff Present: CSO Coordinator C. Brown, 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 and all Commissioners were present.
- II. Approve Minutes** – Commissioner M. Gobbo made the motion to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2011 meeting. Commissioner P. Morrisroe seconded. The motion carried.
- III. Action Items**

Commissioner M. Gobbo motioned to review Case #11-17541 first. The motion carried.

1. Review Case #11-17541

Chairwoman Gobbo reviewed the police report that corresponds with this case and asked Ms. Jozwiak, the offender, to describe what happened. Ms. Jozwiak described the incident. The victim told her to bring her dog inside. Mr. Petrov never informed her that her dog had bitten him. When the police came to the scene that was when she found out that the dog had bitten him. The dog, "Barney" is up to date on his shots. He is typically tied up in front of the house. Commissioner Morrisroe stated that even the nicest of dogs will go into attack mode when tied up. She felt that Barney was defending the property and is letting others know that she is defending. She asked if Barney was ever enrolled in training. Ms. Jozwiak stated that he went to a two-week boot camp. She suggested only letting Barney out in front when accompanied, or else he should go in back. Chairwoman Gobbo stated that Barney should not be allowed in the front yard. Commissioner Morrisroe suggested putting up a "Beware of Dog" sign to minimize risk. It would let people know that they would be entering the property at their own risk. Chairwoman Gobbo suggested that when putting Barney out for the first time, he be put out with a treat toy. She also suggested spraying lemon juice in Barney's mouth for training purposes.

The Commission unanimously agreed to dismiss the case.

2. Review Case #11-17291

Chairwoman Gobbo reviewed the police report that corresponds with this case and asked the offender, Ms. Witek, to describe what happened. Ms. Witek's mother had the dog on a retractable leash. The dog, "Asscher" broke away and bit a boy on his lower calf while he was riding his bike past the property. Asscher is up to date on all of his vaccinations. He has not gone through any formal training, but the owners are currently looking for a place to take him. Commissioner Urquhart stated that dogs must be on a six-foot lead, and therefore suggested that the owner not use a retractable leash. Chairwoman Gobbo asked if the victim's family asked for medical expenses to be covered. Ms. Witek stated that they had not. Ms. Witek also stated that since they have only lived in Park Ridge for a month, they have not been able to get Asscher licensed, but will do so soon. Commissioner Morrisroe asked that Asscher be enrolled in an obedience class so he understands that he is not the boss. She suggested a Park District class or a class through Alex Brooks in Des Plaines.

The Commission unanimously agreed to dismiss the case.

3. Review Case #11-18696

The Commission reviewed the police report that corresponds with this case and asked the offender and victim to describe what happened. Mr. Dupke stated that he had taken his dog, "Cooper" for a walk that day and had interactions with neighbors and their dogs without a problem. Mr. Dupke's 12-year-old daughter was walking Cooper at that time. Mr. Patras had asked Mr. Dupke if his dog was friendly. Mr. Dupke responded stating that Cooper was a new dog. Within six seconds of his response, Cooper charged towards Mr. Patras' dog, Coco and bit her. Mr. Patras stated that Coco is doing better after being in the hospital for three days. She is now home and appears to be healing great. Mr. Patras stated that there was no secondary attack from Cooper. Commissioner Urquhart stated that one should not let young children walk dogs, but he understands that there was a false sense of security since there were not any problems earlier with the other dogs. Chairwoman Gobbo stated that it would take time for Cooper to get used to his new environment. Commissioner Morrisroe stated that the dog should be enrolled in an obedience class within 30 days. It will take about 60 days for Cooper to adjust to his new environment. The obedience class will help the entire family to learn and use all of the same commands with Cooper. A trained dog is a happy dog. Mr. Dupke stated that he will get Cooper's vaccinations up to date and will get the Park Ridge license.

The Commission unanimously agreed to dismiss the case.

IV. Old Business

Chairwoman Gobbo asked for an update on Mr. Basile. CSO Coordinator Brown stated that she spoke with Mr. Basile and that his dog went to training classes at Alex Brooks Training Center and has had excellent results. He has since been licensed with the City of Park Ridge.

V. New Business

None

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.