



**CITY OF PARK RIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

MINUTES

**Animal Commission Meeting
Mayor's Conference Room
Monday, November 12, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: MaryAnn Gobbo, Bill Urquhart & Peg Morrisroe
Members Absent: None
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. All members were present.
- II. Approve Minutes** – Commissioner Urquhart made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 1 and October 15, 2012 meetings. Commissioner Morrisroe seconded. The motion passed.

III. Action Items

1. Review Case #12-23373

The Commissioners discussed the background on the case. They stated that it was difficult to make a judgment on an animal after just one incident, especially when the owner is not present at the meeting.

Commissioner Morrisroe stated that border collies like to chase, but nonetheless, the owner should have the dog under control at all times.

Chairwoman Gobbo asked that Staff send a letter to the owner asking that they attend the next meeting.

The Commissioners decided that they needed more information and had additional questions about this case. The case was continued.

2. Review Case #12-24166

The Commissioners discussed the background on the case. Ms. Sandra Smith provided background on the incident as she remembered it, as stated in the police report. Mr. Lee Carpenter did the same. He added that Lola belongs to his son, but lives with him. His son lives elsewhere in Park Ridge. She is eight years old. He did not feel that his dog, Lola, was involved in this incident. While the description of the house that the dog came from matches his home, his dog is never allowed outside alone. Lola is spayed and in good health. He stated that the vet told him that she is a good-tempered dog.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked if Lola was up to date with her shots at the time of the incident. Mr. Carpenter stated that she was not up to date, as his son does not believe in shots. Lola spent time at the animal hospital and is now up to date with vaccinations.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked CSO Poirier about her involvement in this incident. CSO Poirier stated that she received a call for a stray dog. She went to try to locate the dog, but was unable to find it.

Mr. Rutkowski, the uncle of Ms. Smith and father of the witness to the bite, stated that Mr. Carpenter's dogs are always barking whether they are inside or outside the house. It is possible that the dog could have gotten the gate open on her own.

Chairwoman Gobbo stated that while the dog is protecting its property, it is also the responsibility of the owner to train the dog. She explained the repercussions if Lola bit someone else. She explained the definition of a "dangerous" dog as stated in the City Ordinance.

The Commissioners agreed that Lola should be considered "at-risk." They explained the requirements of this outcome to the owner.

CSO Coordinator Brown stated that the Finance Department and the 911 Center would be notified that Lola is an "at-risk" animal.

3. Review Case #24538

The Commissioners discussed the background on this case.

On August 15, 2011, Chica was deemed "at-risk."

Commissioner Morrisroe asked if Chica was up to date on her vaccinations. Ms. Wolan-Szymanski stated that she was. She added that she felt her dog, Chica, was doing its job protecting the property.

Chairwoman Gobbo asked if they had a "Beware of Dog" sign posted on the property. Ms. Wolan-Szymanski stated that she did.

Chairwoman Gobbo stated that since this is the second incident where Lola bit someone, the Commission would have to deem her a "dangerous" animal. She explained the definition of a "dangerous" dog.

Chairwoman Morrisroe asked if Chica was spayed. Ms. Wolan-Szymanski stated that she is not and that she did not want her to be. She did go back to the original location she took Chica for obedience training to get her re-evaluated.

Commissioner Morrisroe asked Ms. Wolan-Symanski's daughter if she ever experiences any issues with Chica growling or acting unfriendly when she has friends over to the house. She stated that she never has any issues with Chica and her friends.

The Commissioners explained reasons as to the importance of dogs being neutered or spayed. In cases such as these, it is important for Chica to be spayed so that she will not

reproduce additional unfriendly dogs and it calms animals down as well. Ms. Wolan-Szymanski disagreed, stated that while she has no intention of breeding Chica, she will not get her spayed, as it has no affect on female dogs personalities.

The Commissioners agreed that Chica should be considered “dangerous.” They explained the requirements of this outcome to the owner.

The Commissioners decided that the next meeting would be on Monday, December 3, 2012.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.