Passed 9-0

RESOLUTION 10-03

Creating a Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force

WHEREAS, Many community members are concerned about the number of deer in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Some residents are concerned about deer-vehicle collisions, tick-borne illnesses, damage to yard plantings and vegetable gardens and general safety; and

WHEREAS, Urban environments have created excellent deer habitat and many citizens, through the planting of ornamental and/or vegetable gardens, provide an abundance of food and shelter; and

WHEREAS, As the number of deer in urban environments grow, so too do deer-human conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Urban areas can provide substantial carrying capacity for deer and the biological carrying capacity of some urban areas can approach 100 deer per square mile; and

WHEREAS, Instead of biological carrying capacity, the community must decide how many deer is acceptable – the social carrying capacity; and

WHEREAS, Many Bloomington and Monroe County residents have contacted elected officials of the City of Bloomington and Monroe County, requesting measures to control the urban deer population; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has exclusive jurisdiction over the management of deer per Indiana Code §14-22; and

WHEREAS, A prudent approach to deer-human co-existence involves a partnership between the citizens, local government and the IDNR; and

WHEREAS, There is a significant lack of community knowledge about the complexity of addressing deer in urban environments; and

WHEREAS, Understanding the nature of the deer issue and exploring approaches is in the interest of the citizens of the City of Bloomington and Monroe County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force shall be established to explore ways to address deer-human conflicts and to solicit community feedback on different possible approaches. Public education shall be part of the Task Force's charge.

(1) Members. The Task Force shall be composed of eleven members.

(2) Appointments. One member shall be appointed by the Mayor, three shall be appointed by the Bloomington Common Council and three shall be appointed by Monroe County Commissioners. One member of the Bloomington Common Council, one Monroe County Commissioner, a representative from the IDNR and the Director of the City of Bloomington's Animal Care and Control shall also serve on the Task Force.

(3) Qualifications. Members shall include a variety of community representatives and expertise. Preference for Task Force members shall be given to: concerned residents, those with a background in biology (wildlife and/or ecology), veterinarians, gardeners, animal welfare representatives and law enforcement. Members should be open-minded and capable of working alongside members with differing opinions.

SECTION 2. The Task Force shall draft advisory recommendations for review by the City, County and the IDNR.

SECTION 3. The Task Force shall sunset once it submits its recommendations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 7th day of APRIL, 2010.

ISABEL PIEDMONT-SMITH, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 8th day of APRIL, 2010.

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 15TH day of APRIL, 2010.

MARK KRUZAN, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This is a City of Bloomington-Monroe County resolution creating a citizen-based Deer Task Force. The resolution is sponsored by Councilmembers Dave Rollo and Andy Ruff of the Bloomington Common Council and Monroe County Commissioner Iris Kiesling. The legislation acknowledges that some in the community have called upon City and County governments to address the issue of deer in urban areas. As the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has jurisdiction over the management of deer, this resolution calls for the Task Force to work closely with the IDNR in exploring options. The Task Force will engage in public education and will draft advisory recommendations for review by IDNR and local government. The group shall sunset once it issues its recommendations.

Signed copies to:
legal(10) deputy clerk mc. commissioners
CA/CA(3)
animal care + control