

ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2019

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>PUBLIC</u>
Sarah Nickel	Jacqueline Moore	Ryan Pedigo
Valerie Pena	Lisa Ritchel	
Tom Rea	Virgil Sauder	
Nancy Riggert		
James Schultz		
Rebecca Warren		

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The wording in the January MCHA update was refined to read *big initiative* instead of *big stuff*. James moved to approve the January 14, 2019 minutes with the above change. Nancy seconded. Motion passes 5-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Pedigo from Leadership Bloomington Monroe County was present to propose an ordinance amendment for the city dealing with extreme weather conditions. He had been in email communication with Virgil and understands that the Commission has also been working on an ordinance change in regards to extreme weather. Ryan's proposed ordinance amendment reads:

(q) Dogs and cats must be brought inside a temperature controlled building, such as a home or a temperature controlled garage, when the temperature outside is at or below twenty (20) degrees Fahrenheit, at or above ninety (90) degrees Fahrenheit, or when a heat advisory, wind chill warning, or tornado warning is in effect.

It is understood that some dogs of certain breeds have a propensity to acclimate to colder temperatures (e.g. Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes, Saint Bernards, Newfoundlands, etc.) These animals may be allowed to spend longer periods of time outside when the temperature is at or below twenty (20) degrees Fahrenheit, or when a wind chill warning is in effect, but must not be left outside for longer than one (1) hour at a time when these circumstances exist.

Virgil read the Commission's potential addition that would be under Animal Care, letter B:

In addition, every owner or guardian of a domestic pet within the City shall bring the pet into a temperature controlled facility when the temperature is at or below 20 degrees Fahrenheit or at or above 90 degrees Fahrenheit or when a heat advisory, or wind chill warning has been issued by a local, state, or national authority, except when the pet is in visual range of a competent adult who is outside with the pet.

The Commission discussed these ideas and possible wording. Ryan expressed some concerns with the wording including that certain breeds of dogs enjoy the cold and that it may be excessive to require someone to be outside watching the pet. He advocated a less strict and

broader ordinance to leave it up to the discretion of an officer. Ryan recommended wording like *under the supervision of* rather than *is in visual range of*. He also advocated using *competent person* or *caretaker* rather than *competent adult*. Jackie agreed that *caretaker* would be more consistent as it is already used several times in the ordinance. Ryan then explained that he hopes to make a presentation to the city council in the next couple of weeks and asked if he can say he has the support of the ACC. Rebecca said that as long as his language mirrors the Commission's, he could go in good faith and say he has ACC support. Jackie added that from a legal perspective, we need to first make sure the language is locked.

Valerie moved to make this animal care and temperature ordinance an agenda item for discussion. Nancy seconded. Motion passes. 6-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

i. Animal Care and Temperature Ordinance

The Commission and Ryan Pedigo continued discussing the wording of the ordinance. Virgil handed out a copy of the ordinance with the new wording underlined. Rebecca suggested that the last line could conclude with *except when the pet is under the supervision of a caretaker* rather than *except when the pet is in visual range of a competent adult who is outside with the pet*. Valerie then suggested moving the wording around and starting the sentence with *when the temperature*.

After discussion and more revising, Virgil read the new language as:

When the temperature is at or below 20 degrees Fahrenheit or at or above 90 degrees Fahrenheit or when a heat advisory, or wind chill warning has been issued by a local, state, or national authority, a caretaker must bring the domestic pet into a temperature controlled facility except when the domestic pet is under the supervision of a caretaker.

Valerie moved to revise the Commission's language for proposed ordinance change and to give Ryan Pedigo the permission to go forward with this language. James seconded. Motion passes 6-0-0. Virgil stated that he will email this new language to Ryan.

REPORTS

i. Animal Care and Control Report

Virgil sent out the statistics to the commission and explained that they were similar to the numbers from last year. The only difference was that there were more cats still in the shelter in January from December due to late litters. Virgil also reported that the last few weeks have been trying due to painting the dog kennels and a few cases of parvovirus. This resulted in limited dog kennel space in February. Virgil explained that the shelter will be implementing an education campaign on responsible pet ownership in April. He is hoping that Bloomington will get an official certification as a "Better City for Pets." Rebecca asked for an update on the new shelter facility and updated procedures. Virgil responded that isolation for URIs, kennel cough and parvo is easier with the shelter design. The challenge is learning the best procedures for housing incoming animals. Recently the shelter took in several dogs from another shelter who had an interesting strain of kennel cough. Some of the previous negative kennel behaviors have been

traded for new ones, but overall, the dogs are quieter. Sarah asked Virgil if he had considering vaccinating for influenza. Virgil said that it has been discussed and may be needed if the shelter becomes more of a receiving shelter.

ii. MCHA Update

Rebecca explained that the Tails on the Town will be on April 27. They are hiring for three positions at the MCHA: Veterinarian Technician or Assistant, an Outreach Coordinator and an Education and Volunteer Coordinator. The floor plan has been finished for the new facility and construction should begin early summer. The facility will hopefully be functional by January 2020. Phase 1 is the 4000 square foot facility that will house surgery, clinic space, outreach, grooming and pantry. Phase 1B is emergency housing. Phase 1C is administration and education center. Paws and Claws Camp was cancelled for the summer due to Leslie's recent departure. Instead, MCHA will be able to participate as guest speakers in other camps.

iii. AMC Update

Valerie reported that they had a very good meeting and worked exclusively on ordinances. They went through every definition and made some recommendations of updates. They got through everything except for potentially dangerous. They agreed to come back at a later time and have another work session on this. Rebecca proposed that the ACC have a similar discussion at the next meeting on April 8.

ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION DISCUSSION

i. Pet Store Ordinance

Rebecca asked if city legal has come to a conclusion in regards to the legality of the proposed pet store ordinance. Jackie reported that she has found that these types of ordinance recommendations have been upheld in multiple jurisdictions. However, one change that is needed to the memo is in the section about finding a council member to be the presenter. Jackie stated that under code, one of the included responsibilities is going to the mayor. Rebecca stated that the memo will need to be revised to show this.

Valerie recommending revising the current code rather than adding a new chapter and Jackie recommended putting the new wording in a different color. Rebecca suggested starting with the language of the memo, then considering the language from St. Joseph County and other jurisdictions, creating language to revise to current code.

Virgil reported that when he asked his supervisor the best time to go forward, the request was to delay until after the primaries have concluded. Rebecca recommended that the Commission discuss the new language at the April 8 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.