

ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

January 11, 2010

A regular meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Animal Control Commission was held at the Noel Wien Library Conference Room. Ronnie Rosenberg, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:37PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronnie Rosenberg, Chair
Tone Deehr
Jamie Marschner
MaryAnn Fortune
Shelly Severa
Lauren Tuori
Gidget Hagan

GUESTS PRESENT:

"Papa"
Charlie Knight, Northern Reg. Mgr. of Agriculture, SOA
Natalie Howard

STAFF PRESENT:

Sandy Besser, Animal Control Manager
Misti Anderson, Senior Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gail Gardner

Agenda approved without objections. December meeting minutes will be sent to all members for review prior to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Charlie Knight, Northern Regional Manager for Division of Agriculture for the State of Alaska. Asked what authority Animal Control has over agricultural animals i.e. cattle, pigs, livestock. His interest is with the Borough's proposal to do away with GU1 zoning and the Planning Commission's intent to move animal agriculture 5-10 miles outside the city. Wanted to find out more about the Animal Control Commission.

SHELTER REPORT:

Personnel:

- Misti Anderson, new Senior Secretary of Animal Control
- There is still a shortage of personnel at the Shelter. Working to get positions filled.
- Will be interviewing for Shelter Operations Supervisor next week.
- Admissions Clerk position is still on hold. Tied with personnel issues.
- Kendra will be out on medical leave for several months. Lisa Thomas will be filling in for her.
- Will be advertising for a casual again, towards the end of next week.

- One animal tender is out on medical leave. Casual currently filling his slot. There are 5 full time positions in the back.
- Advertising for more casual tenders.
- Mr. Streeter is no longer with the borough. His position will be advertised closer to the end of the week.
- One ACO out on Worker's Compensation.
- Shelter is working with 2 ACO's at the present time.
- Advertising for ACO position will be internal and then if we're not successful, externally.
- There is some misunderstanding regarding the ACO position that was done away with a year or two ago – this is not an “unfunded FTE” position; it was actually deleted from the budget, so it no longer exists.
- There are currently four Officer Positions, One is vacant and Cathy Crisman is out, so we are operating with Kiffiny Bailey and Jim Bystedt.

Bite Reports

- 18 received, 13 confirmed, 5 not confirmed in December.
- 0 bites received to date for the month of January.

Fortune inquired about the disposal request noted on shelter report. Does this mean deceased animals are brought to the shelter for cremation? Besser replied, “Yes, it can.”

Rosenberg inquired regarding yearly statics for disposal of vet cremations and how it's accounted for. Besser stated that because they are billed by weight only and not actually “booked” into the shelter, it's not reflected in this statistic. The same situation applies to voluntary microchips. Discussion also included rabies clinic and the handling of all these animals regarding the manpower & budget. Besser suggested that some sort of tracking could take place in the future.

Further discussion relating to statistics for euthanasia's, adoptions, return-to-owners, cremations, etc. Rosenberg commented about the Shelter rates for euthanasia's are below 15%. Rosenberg also stated that this is below the national average which is admirable.

Hagan inquired about the volunteer work status at the shelter. Besser stated that this is on hold pending the hiring of the Operations Supervisor.

Rosenberg passed around a sheet of paper requesting updated information on all commission members so that the information can be posted to the website.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Commission Seat. There is one open at this time.

B. Public Education/Outreach

- Shelter Fund had a banner year for donations.

- Investigating putting a kiosk in the lobby of the library that would be directly linked to Petharbor.com so that the public would have more access to animals at the shelter. The library would also offer more information relating to breeds, caretaking, etc. of animals by way of books. This kiosk will also allow for people to enter information regarding lost animals.
- Carol Kleckner, Janice Golub and Ronnie Rosenberg are working on a brochure about adopting huskies. The intent is to help people better understand how to handle a husky as a pet and the dogs needs.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Updating contact information.

B. Pending legislation-HB6 and HB138

- HB6 & HB138. HB6 will criminalize bestiality. Passed unanimously in the house last session. Is currently in the state senate. If this moves thru the senate then it will become law once the Governor signs it.
- There have been 2 cases recently in Fairbanks. If the commission wants to take a stand or write a public opinion message it would probably help it move it along. Fortune offered to initiate the pom. Rosenberg suggested submitting something as a "body" i.e. commission body.
- HB138 will enhance penalties for animal abuse. Rosenberg referenced the Dillingham Shelter incident and how the person couldn't be charged for more than a misdemeanor. This has not moved out of the first couple of committees.
- Letters of support are recommended as individuals and as a group. Moving to vote on it. Touri made the motion. Severa seconded the motion. Rosenberg will write the letter.

C. Zoning, Comprehensive Plan and Dog overlay Zones.

- Rosenberg stated that any changes made to zoning need to be concerned with the number of animals in the borough that could potentially be displaced. These animals could end up at the shelter thus impacting shelter services.
- Rosenberg suggested sending a letters to the assembly, the planning commission, and the staff in the planning department suggesting they consider the potential impact this could have on domestic animals that are already living in that zone. Any radical changes could have a severe impact on an already overloaded animal shelter.
- Rosenberg also wants to address the proposed rural zoning overlay. It won't change current zoning but will put potential buyers on notice regarding the

general usage area of where they are purchasing. Does not preclude them from filing a noise complaint but they need to understand where they are living.

- This is all in reference to GU1 zoning potentially going away.
- No objections.

D. Election of chair and vice-chair for 2010.

- January elections. Need nominations. Severa nominated Ronnie Rosenberg for chair. Shelly Severa closed nominations for chair. Unanimous vote for Ronnie Rosenberg for chair. Fortune nominated Shelly Severa for vice-chair. Unanimous vote for Shelly Severa for vice-chair.

Commissioner Comments/Announcements

- Rosenberg wants to set a meeting. March 1st, 2010 is the next meeting at 6:30pm.
- Rosenberg noted that the Shelter Fund had exceeded expectations over last year. Community is extremely supportive of the Shelter Fund.
- March 14th, 2010 at 4pm there will be a concert for the animals in the civic center at Pioneer Park. Hoping to have a silent auction. Need someone to handle the silent auction.
- No further comments. Reopened to public comment.

Public Comment

- Charlie Knight voiced concern over the dog overlay zoning. Rosenberg addressed this concern regarding dog yards. Charlie also noted GU-5 zoning issues as well. Rosenberg advised that this should be addressed with rezoning.
- "Papa" stated that this is the first time attending and that he enjoyed the meeting. Stated concerns regarding the overlay.

7:22pm the meeting was adjourned