MEETING MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 6, 2011
7:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Council Chambers

Members Present: Ald. Holmes, Fiske, Tendam and Braithwaite

Members Absent: Ald. Grover

Staff Present: Chief Richard Eddington, Nicola Whyte, Evonda Thomas and Katherine Agonis

Presiding Member: Ald. Tendam

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Tendam called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of June 6, 2011
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the June 6, 2011 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved 4-0.

Citizen Comment
Tom Okawara, 1517 Kirk St, dog was attacked by his neighbor's unleashed pit bull. He notified the animal warden and felt the outcome of the investigation or lack of action to contain the dog was unsatisfactory. Mr. Okawara supports amending Ordinance 52-O-11.

Ald. Coleen Burrus, 647 Custer, has experienced dog attacks on more than one occasion. Ald. Burrus felt the animal warden did not do his/her due diligence to remedy the situation. She strongly supports the amendments proposed to Ordinance 52-O-11.

Carin Wolkenberg, 1317 Kirk St., husband was attacked by a pit bull and felt the City's animal warden did not complete a thorough investigation and conclusion. Ms. Wolkenberg supports amending Ordinance 52-O-11.
ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Township of Evanston June Monthly Bills
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the June 6, 2011 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved 4-0.

Ordinance 52-O-11 Amending Certain provisions of Title 9, Chapter 4 pf the Evanston Municipal Code entitled “Dogs, Cats, Animals and Fowl”
Ald. Fiske was sympathetic to the citizen comments but felt the problem lies with enforcing the ordinance not with the current ordinance as written. She suggested educating dog owners and encouraged a quicker response from the animal warden.

Chief Eddington stated over a hundred dog bites were reported during the last twelve month period but only one dog has been labeled a “dangerous dog”. A dog is considered dangerous after it has been evaluated by a dog behaviorist professional. Chief Eddington stated the animal warden follows up on dog complaints and coaches the owners on what does and doesn’t work with handling dogs/leashes etc.

The City’s legal staff presents at the administrative adjudication for tickets written to dog owners; therefore, the animal warden is not required to attend, this is done to cut down on personnel costs. Chief Eddington suggested adding a financial sanction to dog owners with numerous tickets.

Ald Fiske strongly recommended sending this issue to the Police Chief’s Humane Advisory Committee of citizens, a group formed due to the feral cats’ concerns last year. She felt the boards and committees should not be circumvented and strongly believes that discussions should be held at the committee level not at City Council.

Ald Fiske recommended holding the amendments in committee to do a complete and thorough review and to add an educational component, consult with animal behaviorists, and to amend some of the strong languages proposed.

Ald. Fiske read into record the following email
Date: February 27, 2010
From: Officer Loyce Spells

Greeting fellow CPA grads Chief Eddington and City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz are looking for a “few good men and women” to serve on the Chief’s newly formed Humane Advisory Committee, which will address animal related issues. If you are interested please respond according. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Held in Committee
Frank Govern Memorial Golf Course Parking Changes during Northwestern Home Football Games

It was moved and seconded that the extension be approved. A voice vote was taken and was approved 4-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
Update on Citizen Review of Police Complaints
The Committee did not have any questions or concerns regarding the Citizen Review of Police Complaints.

ADJOURNMENT
It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Executive Secretary, Health Department