MEETING MINUTES
Board of Animal Control
Wednesday
July 10, 2019
7:00 pm
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Rm 2404

Members Present: Vice-Chair Kristy Bachmann, Vicky Pasenko, Dawn Davis-Zeinemann, Ald. Peter Braithwaite

Staff Present: Animal Warden Jason Pounds, Administrative Lead Michelle Smith

Others Present: Toni Greets, VP Red Door Shelter; Tamara Friedman, Volunteer Red Door Shelter; Lorianne Kloss, Volunteer Red Door Shelter; Sarah Hendershot; Ald. July Fiske

Presiding Member: Ald. Judy Fiske

CALL TO ORDER
Ald. Braithwaite recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. He appointed Ald. Fiske to preside in the Chair’s absence.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
The minutes of the April 10, 2019 meeting were motioned for approval by Vicky Pasenko and seconded by Kristi Bachmann with a voice vote taken; and were approved with one typographical correction.

CITIZEN COMMENT
Lorianne Kloss spoke about the ordinance banning the sale of rabbits and asking Evanston to enforce the existing Cook County ordinance; 160+ were rescued by Red Door in Rogers Park, 60+ since Easter. She said sellers may be mis-gendering them and Thee Fish Bowl may be selling them. She would like to the an Evanston ordinance that states the same as the Cook County one and includes that stores must get their rabbits from a rescue and rabbits must be already spayed and neutered before they are sold.

Toni Greets states Red Door Shelter specializes in rabbit rescue, most recued are in the suburbs, Chicago’s numbers went down after the ordinance was passed, for most in the general public-it’s an impulse purchase and they don’t fully know the life expectancy of rabbits, and would love to see Evanston go with the County with the ordinance.
Rabbits are prey animals—they get eaten by other animals so they instinctly squirm and scratch, gestation period is only 30 days, it’s expensive to spay/neuter but Red Door does both.
Question: does Home Rule apply to selling rabbits in Evanston? We must follow the county or have our own ordinance.

**BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

a. Ald. Fiske asked Toni Greetis for wording to propose to the Human Services Committee and to attach to pet shop purchase contracts. She stated education is part of the situation, the public can help spread the word, and Legal will give us direction regarding enforcement. Vicky Pasenko will assist with the wording for an Evanston ordinance change regarding rabbits, with Red Door providing statistics. Michelle Smith will have rabbits included in the animal ordinance. With the goal to pass a new ordinance before Easter. Vicky Pasenko stated EASA gives surrendered rabbits to Red Door because EASA doesn’t have the space for them.

b. Kristi Bachmann and Vicky Pasenko got the list of Evanston Parks from Ald. Braithwaite. Ald. Fiske asked the City Council to consider another dog area and shared info with them; she also said Lawrence Hemingway, Director of PRCS, provided a presentation at the Council meeting regarding this. She’s also asked Lara Biggs, COE Capital Planning and Engineering Bureau Chief, how much space will be needed and how this can happen— not a park that interacts with children and has a playground, and should include a water feature. Penny Park was recently re-build as an effort by citizens and business; likewise a new dog park could be established with amenities, with a cost associated to the pet owner regarding use of the park. Vicky Pasenko will reach out to the author of an article published by www.citylab.com. Also states let’s not have this compete with money the shelter already raises. We should compare the dog beach permits with EASA donors. Dawn Davis-Zeinemann states dog owners will be willing to pay in order for dogs to interact with other dogs at the park.

**REPORTS**

Animal Activity Report—
Warden states it’s been consistent with having dogs on the beach and off leash; all is pretty normal. Sarah Hendershot asked the protocol for dying animals and how they are handled, also saying she buried an animal she saw dying. Warden responded he can’t transport the animal and with gloves, he placed the animal in a bag and places it in his truck. Ald. Fiske reiterated the cycle of wildlife.

EASA—
Vicky Pasenko states the shelter now has a freezer and Hinsdale will do a cremation once a month and asked Warden to transport if needed.
Kristi Bachmann asked how much time is spent picking up dead animals. And asked if Streets and Sanitation should pick them up? Ald. Fiske responded Streets and Sanitation has assigned routes and the Warden has been assigned to respond for animal calls, adding Warden is doing a great job taking care of picking them up and she could ask the City Manager about Streets and Sanitation picking up dead animals. Vicky Pasenko reported the second quarter was unremarkable, explained the euthanasia(s), and discussed which hospitals they use for spay/neuters. She adds, if there is a case of cruelty that happens on the weekend, an officer who's familiar with humane investigations should respond. Warden said he's always on call. Dawn Davis-Zeinemann commented the City has a phenomenal 311 system for information.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

NEXT MEETING
October 9, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Smith,
Administrative Lead
Evanston Police Department