



**Animal Care & Control
Advisory Board
December 17, 2009**

MEETING MINUTES

Lori Olson, Deputy Director of Environmental Management, welcomed the group

All attending members signed the Oath of Office.

Lori reported on the status of the 2010 budget. City Council approved the addition of a license coordinator position to assist in getting animals in Minneapolis licensed. Though Council denied the request for CBDG Funds to be used to fund an officer to work directly with Animal Control, Regulatory Services was able to find the funds for the position. In addition, Animal Control was taken off the contingency plan if funds were to be further cut. Originally, the contingency plan involved cutting four positions.

Dan Niziolek provided an update on City Ordinance changes. City council was going to meet on December 18 on changes to the Dangerous Animal Ordinance. The changes would include allowing officers to administer citations to owners whose animals attach on their own property. Changes also include allowing officers to administer citations to cat owners.

Lori updated the group on the new Animal Control Website. The new website will also allow pet owners to apply for licenses online.

Dan reported on the status of online pet licensing. December 28th is the targeted "go live" date. The new process will make licensing easier and hopefully lead to a larger percentage of pets in Minneapolis being licensed. A mailing in Minneapolis utility bills will promote the online pet licensing. Dan asked the group to provide email addresses of appropriate parties so he can send out a January Kickoff email. Dan is also looking at holding a January kickoff event.

The group discussed the status of the current Advisory Board Projects. For the project to promote responsible pet ownership, Kimberly Culbertson provided a list of low cost spay and neuter programs in Minnesota and suggested linking it on the website and recommended that Animal Control could link to valuable information on several websites that Minneapolis pet owners may find useful rather than strictly developing the content internally. For the Pet Licensing Project, Dan presented to the group a program in which animal-related businesses could license pets right out of their stores. Participating stores would post a placard identifying them as an establishment where a pet license could be purchased. The establishment would

have licenses to issue at the location and would collect the funds from the applicant either in cash or check. The business would provide the applicant with a letter notifying them that the license was contingent on Animal Control verifying the applicant did not have any outstanding fines or fees with Animal Control, that their pet has not been declared dangerous or potentially dangerous, and that the applicant does not have more than 3 pets. Animal Control would then collect payment and applications from the business. Dan has identified approximately 30 businesses that may be interested in participating. Dan asked that the advisory board divide the list and speak to business owners they are familiar with to encourage them to participate in the program. The group suggested providing the incentive to business owners of listing their business on the Animal Control Website as a participating business.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.