



**Animal Care & Control  
Advisory Board  
April 20, 2009**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Ray Aboyan, Amy Draeger, Shannon McKenzie, Rachel Anderson, Maureen Haggerty, Trisha Moreland, Kimberly Culbertson, Anne Hendrickson, Peter "Peat" Willcutt, Paula Denman, Mary Lind, Lori Olson, Dan Niziolek, Tom Doty

**Guests Attending:** Mary Britton Clause, Talia Mills

**Absent:** All Present

**Discussion:**

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

Dan Niziolek, Manager of Animal Care and Control, gave an update on the bee keeping ordinance. The ordinance was well received by the Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee. It was going to be presented to City Council on Friday, April 24. The only difference from the St Paul ordinance is that it calls for 100% approval from adjacent properties. There were two questions brought up at the public hearing that need further reflection: 1) Will fly away barriers be required for rooftop facilities 2) How will signatures be obtained for park properties such as Eloise Butler? The Board brought up the question of how the City of Minneapolis intended to regulate the sale of honey.

Dan provided an update on the Chicken Task Force. The task force has been formed and the group is looking at educational requirements for obtaining permits, care requirements, cleaning up the permitting process, and what other municipalities are doing. Dan will alert the advisory board as to when the next public meeting will take place. It was recommended by the group that a vegan/vegetarian representative may be a valuable member of the advisory board moving forward.

Lori reviewed the donations resolution. This resolution would allow Animal Control to easily accept and solicit donations. This will primarily be done through the upcoming online services being proposed for fall 2009. Donations would go toward animal care, education and outreach, and spay and neutering.

Dan discussed the cat population and what Animal Control plans to do to help cut down on the number of cats euthanized each spring. The spring season brings a boom of cat population at

the shelter. Ideas include holding a spring cat sale, reducing the \$62 adoption fee, and by providing some form of assistance for spay/neutering. Animal Control could talk to area vets about providing spay/neuter coupons or matching rates. This may assist small businesses in building a customer base. Another idea is for adoptive family would temporarily foster cats, humane society may be able to spay/neuter the cats. Spay/neuter currently costs approx \$200. Humane society costs approx \$30-50. It was recommended that Animal Control could work with corporations or individuals to sponsor cats while at Animal Control. Many corporations have newsletters or groups devoted to animal lovers/pet owners. One example is the "Paws" group through Ameriprise.

Anne Hendrickson of Downtown Dogs gave a presentation on early canine socialization. A lack of focus on appropriate socialization contributes to the number of dog bites in Minneapolis. The group discussed how this information could be a useful education/outreach piece for both dog owners and possibly schools/community groups.

The group prioritized board projects and chose to focus attention on pet licensing (particularly public relations-getting the message about pet licensing to the public) and canine behavior awareness (including outreach to schools and community groups, possibly focusing on empathy-building). Other topics that the Board is interested in addressing in the future include regulations on dogs being allowed in rental properties, regulations on tethering dogs outside, regulation and education around leaving animals in cars, coordination between Animal Control and the Park Board, Animal Control involvement in cases of domestic violence, urban agriculture, and spay/neutering.

Lori discussed the Animal control Website. She would like to post the Advisory Board meeting minutes. Lori will follow up with an email to Board members to verify what information they are comfortable with posting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

**Action Items:**

Maureen will put together educational pieces for Behavior awareness

Dan will put together a presentation on pet licenses

Dr. Kim will give a spay/neuter information / presentation