

## Animal Care & Control Advisory Board April 26, 2010

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Amy Draeger, Shannon McKenzie, Rachel Anderson, Maureen Haggerty, Trisha Moreland, Kimberly Culbertson, Paula Denman, Anne Hendrickson, Ken Goldman, Mary Lind, Lori Olson, Dan Niziolek

## Discussion:

Lori Olson called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm on April 26<sup>th</sup>

Lori introduced the new board member, Ken Goldman. Ken runs a marketing company called Idea Park and a dog gear company called Stunt Puppy. Ken is serving on the board because he would like to positively impact dog and human quality of life in Minneapolis. Ken has lived in Minneapolis for nine years and previously worked with Animal Control to develop the animal licensing insert for utility bills.

Dan Niziolek reported that Regulatory Services hired a police officer for Animal Control. Sgt Angie Dodge has served on the Minneapolis Police Department for 20 years. Sgt Dodge has already set up a system so all 911 calls involving animals are received by Animal Control automatically by computer. This is especially important between the hours of 11 pm and 7 am when 311 is not open to take calls. Sgt Dodge has also investigated calls where dogs are being used as weapons. These calls were not caught by Animal Control before now and the addition of Sgt Dodge to the Animal Control Team opens up the possibility of looking more at the criminal aspect of this issue. Animal Control can put the onus on the dog owner rather than on just the dog. The week before this meeting, Sgt Dodge served her first warrant for dog fighting.

Lori provided an update on the Development Project Coordinator position. The applications for this position are due May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Dan reported on the Domestic Violence Initiative. Animal Control is working with the Police department to provide five free days of kenneling in domestic violence cases and

will help arrange foster situations for pets after that time. Sgt Dodge worked with the police department to establish a protocol.

Lori updated the group on a proposed ordinance change for unlicensed pets. At this time, Animal Control has not seen the increase in pet licenses they were hoping to see. Currently, the fine for not having a license is \$100. The standard fine in Regulatory Services is \$200. The ordinance change would bring the fine up to \$200 which would be in line with other fines administered in Regulatory Services. It would also provide added incentive for pet owners to get their animals licensed. The advisory board agreed that the fine should be raised to \$200.

Dan presented a possible ordinance change to increase the citation for not picking up feces. The fine is now \$100. Animal Control would like to increase the citation to \$200. The Advisory Board agreed the citation should be increased.

Dan presented a proposed change to the dangerous dog ordinance that would not allow home daycare operators to bring a declared dangerous dog back to their home if they are running a daycare out of the home. The Advisory Board feels that rather than not returning dogs, perhaps they should be required to disclose the ruling to clients. Another possibility is to only hold animals that bit a human and not those who were declared dangerous for biting another animal. More discussion on this ordinance change proposal will be forthcoming.

Dan provided a pet licensing update. Animal control had 6200 licenses in 2009 and 6900 licenses in 2010. This number does not account for lifetime licenses. 74 % of customers are licensing online. Communication went out in local newspapers. After the ads, Animal Control received 330 new license applications. Dan handed out packets and went through the store licensing process. He sent around a sign up list of organizations identified as likely candidates for business partners. Board members selected businesses they will talk to. This initiative has been delayed because the license coordinator has not yet been hired.

The meeting was adjourned by Lori Olson at 3:30 pm