

Minutes for the Public Health & Safety Committee Wednesday January 11, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Felice-Borisy-Rudin.

Present were: Felice-Borisy-Rudin, Mark Lederer, Josh Sotos, and Tim Crisp. Excused were Cara Silverman, Andy Stoltman and Bill Muehl. Also present was Trustee Anne Readell, Police Chief Dennis Pine, Police officer Jamie Weitzel, Administrator Karl Frantz and residents Michael and Trina Schuler and Jerry and Joni Stein.

Compliance with the open meeting law was noted.

Consider possible revisions to Sections 17.06 of the Village code related to the licensing of cats and dogs based on Board referral of ordinance back to Committee due to concerns raised over recent changes that effected the regulation of cats - Chairperson Felice- Borisy -Rudin introduced the subject matter.

The recent change to the code related to vicious dogs also contains a section that allows cats to run at large as long as they are wearing a bell. This as well as other changes to that section of the code caught the attention of Michael and Trina Schuler who believe the ordinance should be revised to not let cats run at large due to impacts on bird populations as well as their concerns with other changes that had been made to the ordinance.

Chair Borisy- Rudin said that she would provide guests five minutes each to present their thoughts after which the Committee would consider the matter.

Reverend Michael Schuler presented background information on cat predation. He referenced experts who agree that cats should be contained and not be allowed to run a large. Ms. Schuler provided the Committee with a map showing all of the Dane County municipalities that have ordinances that do not allow cats to run at large. They also pointed out other code sections that had been changed that they felt diminishes the ability to regulate cats.

Chair Borisy -Rudin then outlined the process the Committee would follow to consider this matter beginning with a review of the ordinance and the specific areas where changes had been made.

After review and extensive discussion, the Committee decided that it would host a public information meeting along with Parks Committee. The purpose of the meeting would be to educate Village officials and residents on the subject of cat predation and birds. After that, the Committee would consider any changes to the ordinance to submit to the Village Board for its consideration.

Felice-Borisy-Rudin seconded by Josh Sotos moved to recommend to the Board that a public information meeting be held on the subject of Village regulation of cats and whether and to invite experts to present and answer questions. The motion was approved unanimously.

Review and recommendation on process to deal with substantiated reports of wild turkey nuisance and aggressive behaviors toward humans – The Committee was briefed on the matter and the severe nature of the problem. Mark Lederer seconded by Josh Sotos moved to recommend that the Village Board approve costs associated with elimination and or relocation of wildlife that pose a threat to public safety. The motion was approved unanimously.

Review of police reports and incidents and any recommendations -Reports were distributed for review.

Discussion and possible recommendation regarding use of medians for panhandling and safety issues.

Josh Sotos brought up the ongoing issue of panhandlers on University especially related to the auxiliary areas behind the Credit Union and Flemings where they go to rest and continue whatever other things there are doing, along with the resulting litter, nuisance behavior and exchanges in these hidden areas. The area is also in close proximity to where children wait to embark and disembark from school busses. This is all of concern to him. It was noted that the areas where the panhandling occurs are in the City. The Mayor is working on an ordinance that will prohibit lingering in certain street rights of way including Midvale, U Bay Drive and Shorewood Boulevard due to safety concerns. The Committee requested that staff check with the Mayor's office on the status of the ordinance and our interest in seeing it get approved. The Village Administrator mentioned that there might be other sections of the Village code that could be used by the Police to control some these sorts of things also.

Discussion and possible recommendations on beekeeping regulations – A memo on the subject prepared by Attorney Holly Wilson was distributed but the topic was no discussed

The next meeting will be held on February 13

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Frantz, Village Administrator
