

Animal Control Advisory Board Minutes

2012 2nd Qtr Meeting

Date: June 28th 2012
Location: City Hall / City Council Chambers
Time: 6:00 PM

The 2012 2nd Qtr Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

ROLLCALL

Attending:

Assistant Chief Williams	Chairman
Alijah Hunter	Animal Control
Chris Schwanke	City Council

Absent:

Rex Bailey	Veterinarian (MC Animal Hospital)
Steven Wolfensohn	Humane Society

The determination of a quorum was made.

Minutes of the last Animal Board meeting were reviewed and accepted.

New Business:

► Alijah Hunter reports that on June 7th 2012 there was a dog bite at 435 Maplewood Trail. After reading the police report and speaking with the victim and pet owner, the dog was deemed Dangerous. This means that the pet owner has to microchip their animal, purchase liability insurance and the animal must wear a muzzle guard when outdoors (comply with section F of the Dangerous Animal Ordinance). This all needs to be completed in 30 days of the notice.

There has been an appeal filed and the date for this hearing at the Board of Works was scheduled for July 16th 2012, but has since been recalled by the pet owner.

Unfinished business:

► Royce Williams advised that the status of the Kennel Volunteer Program got off to a slow start, then inquired in anyone on the panel had any questions or concerns with the application and waiver forms provided by the City of Michigan City Legal Counsel...there was none. Royce Williams announced that this initiative will go out in the media outlets soliciting volunteers in the next 4 weeks.

► Royce Williams advised the status of the website, due to schedule conflicts between him and Sgt. Rob Drake (Network Administrator for MCPD), vacations, trainings, work, etc. the process is moving very slow. The target date for completion will be December of 2012.

► Royce Williams advised the status of the live view web camera system for the kennel. Andy Matanic (City IT) was working on the project and advised that this will be more difficult than originally thought, the cost for equipment would reach over \$3,500.00 and there would also be a monthly re-occurring charge of \$150.00 from Comcast.

► Royce Williams wanted to touch on the financial disbursement issue regarding the Independent Cat Society and the Michiana Humane Society since this was a hot topic at the 1st Qtr meeting. An e-mail was sent out explaining those circumstances and what the Controllers Office's legal view and plan was, with the absence of Connie from the ICS and Steven with MHS, this issue would be tabled for the 3rd Qtr meeting.

Review of the Michigan City Animal Control Activities, 2nd Qtr:

Dog Impounds:	45
Cat Impounds:	17
Transported to LaPorte Small Animal Shelter:	17
Euthanized:	4 (1 deemed dangerous / 3 for expired claim time)
Citations Issued:	8
Cat Trap Set:	1 (9 cats captured – taken by ICS)
Dog Fighting Investigations:	0
Critical incidents to report (animal bites):	3
After Hour Calls (injured animals):	22

Comments from the Public:

► **Karen Coffee from Bridgeman, MI.** Had a question regarding the live cameras for the kennel and the lack of funding. Karen requested clarification reference to what the problem was.

Royce Williams advised that this project was never budgeted from 2011 to 2012 that the Michigan City Police Department was going to pay for this project as it was described to be a very low cost project in the beginning at approximately \$1,500.00. Since then, after multiple issues were discovered by Andy Matanic (City IT) we recently learned that the project would cost at least \$3,500.00 for equipment and a monthly charge of \$150.00 for Comcast. This exceeded what the Michigan City Police Department was able to spend.

Karen offered her services to research some alternatives for this project.

Councilman Chris Schwanke advised that Royce had just brought that issue to him today and he will be looking into some other alternatives to get this project up and running sooner. Perhaps asking the City Council would be appropriate.

Karen Coffee advised that she will also assist with the research of possible grants that can be applied for regarding this project.

Comments from the Board:

Alijah Hunter advised that he has been working on the matters concerning our euthanasia rate in Michigan City and has been reaching out to several rescue groups throughout our region; in fact a representative of “Small Paws Rescue” is present at the meeting. Most of these rescue groups are breed specific because they have a better adoption rate. Other rescue groups contacted are “New Beginning Rescue”, “Sound Hound Rescue, and “Safe Haven Rescue”.

Alijah Hunter also commented on a request that was made during the 1st Qtr meeting regarding euthanasia. The explanation for reason for euthanasia will be on the new spreadsheet for Animal Control Activities; Capt. Mark Harris with the Michigan City Police Department is completing that request.

Alijah will also be updating an animal ordinance pamphlet to hand out throughout the city as he believes that most violations occur because the community doesn’t know the rules.

Alijah has located three areas in the city where colonies of cats were found, will forward information to Connie (ICS).

Catastrophic Disaster Plan for Region V - Valparaiso University has been named the Central Hub if a major event occurs. Alijah has been assisting in putting the plan together for animal sheltering (Porter County Fair Grounds).

Alijah released a press release for Heat Advisories regarding animal safety.

Councilmen Chris Schwanke asked Alijah if the four rescue groups he spoke with were ALL breed specific, he replied they are, but through e networking process with the existing groups we hope to have an abundant list that’s approved by City Hall to tap into their resources.

The next Board meeting will be announced via e-mail

The Animal Advisory Board formally adjourned

Royce Williams
Animal Control Advisory Board Chairman
Assistant Chief of Police