

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA
*MONA LISA DREXLER ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AT THE
JUANITA HELMS ADMINISTRATION CENTER
907 TERMINAL STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA OR OTHER LOCATION*

August 19, 2019 6:00 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

B. MESSAGES

1. Citizen's Comments – limited to three (3) minutes
2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of consent agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (*) on agenda. Consent agenda items are not considered separately unless any Commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such request, the item is returned to the general agenda.

D. *MINUTES

1. *Minutes from July 15, 2019

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Shelter report
2. Discussion of a recommendation to the Mayor concerning the licensing of animals.
3. Discussion of the issues associated with the commercial sale of reptiles and exotic animals and how to communicate those concerns to sellers.

F. NEW BUSINESS

G. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES September 16, 2019

H. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Richard Bogen stated the proposed bill was released on social media in a format that had the Mayor's name and office information on it as if it was officially recognized.

Commissioner Thornton explained it was a draft from several years ago. **Commissioner Thornton** suggested to **Mr. Bogen** to look on their website to see the information was included in part of an old agenda to discuss a previous version of what was released about 5 years ago. He stated the Commission has not come up with a new version yet. **Commissioner Thornton** further explained that someone went into their minutes, and took a document out of the context and presented it as if it were the new version.

Commissioner Chesney explained the old version would have had old dates, and the new draft version was partially updated.

Commissioner Rosenberg stated a lot of the document was cut and paste. She further explained the process started back in the Rhonda Boyle days, with discussion about looking at other Borough and City ordinances for ways to offset costs, and to have an idea for disaster plans for animals. **Commissioner Rosenberg** further explained the licensing idea was considered, and reconsidered between different Mayor's terms. **Commissioner Rosenberg** went on to explain the Commission is advisory to the Mayor, and they do not have rule making ability.

Discussion ensued between **Mr. Bogen** and **Commissioners** on the confusion of the draft-licensing ordinance released on social media.

Mr. Bogen stated his concern for the dollar amount mentioned in the draft-licensing ordinance.

Commissioner Thornton explained that the Commission is still discussing the fees, and the fees in the draft-licensing ordinance were previous numbers.

Commissioner Chesney noted there could be an option of a kennel license where all dogs in the kennel could be licensed vs. having to license each dog.

Commissioner Rosenberg mentioned a small kennel fee, if you have seven or fewer. Seven and under is one fee, and more than seven is another fee. Rabies cycles were also taken in consideration., and with consideration for language as to not conflict with zoning.

Commissioner Chesney stated they are trying to make it as easy and painless as possible.

Mr. Bogen stated the Commission had already answered his second question, which was where the concept of the drafts came from.

Commissioner Gardner stated Fairbanks is the only city in Alaska of its size that does not have licensing.

Commissioner Thornton stated the Commission is only looking locally, and comparing local agencies. He stated he is in favor of keeping it as minimal as possible while still weighing the needs to ensure animal safety. He stated he would like more public comment, and was glad people showed up. He encouraged the public to send in comments to Commissioners via email, which is publicly posted online.

Mr. Bogen stated his initial concern and understanding was that he owns 20 dogs, and the fee was \$65 per dog.

Commissioner Thornton commented that he would be registering as a 7 plus dog kennel, and further explained the Commission doesn't know what that fees will be, or if the license ordinance will even pass.

Mr. Bogen, added requiring reptiles to be registered would risk overflow, there is only one official reptile rescue in the area, which would be overflowed even more.

Commissioner Thornton stated they do not want to prevent any responsible owner from having an exotic animal; he noted the Commission needs to figure out the best way to make sure the animals end up in responsible homes. They are focusing on commercial sales.

- a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing – None.
- b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda – None.

2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest – None.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by **Commissioner Thornton** and seconded by **Commissioner Gardner**. Carried without objection or roll call vote.

D. MINUTES

Minutes from June 17, 2019

Motion to approve the amended minutes made by **Commissioner Fortune** and seconded by **Commissioner Rosenberg**. Carried without objection or roll call vote.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Shelter Report presented by Ariel Cunningham

Animal population: There have been a high number of small animals at the shelter for the past couple of months. There are a variety of small

animals; guinea pigs, hamsters, turtles, rabbits. The shelter will not be participating in Golden Days this year, due to a training immediately following. A casual admissions clerk has been hired. Training: Sandy is attending ASPCA Cornell Maddie's Medicine Conference. An emergency shelter training will take place July 21st and 22nd, put on by American Humane, held at the Fair Grounds, 9am-6pm. All full-time employees, as many casual staff members as possible will attend, and as many volunteers to fill the remaining spots. Ms. Cunningham asked Commissioners to email Ms. Hill if they would like to attend. Ms. Hill stated she is resigning, July 19th is her last day.

Commissioner Chesney asked if the shelter had any involvement at the Fair Grounds with the Shovel Creek fire.

Ms. Cunningham stated they are currently not, the neighborhoods are out of level 3, and there are no animals at the Fair Grounds. They are still set up due to some neighborhoods being at level 2, and ready to go if any neighborhoods go into level 3.

Discussion ensued between **Ms. Cunningham** and **Commissioners** about the emergency shelter at the Fair Grounds, and animals housed at certain times during the evacuation.

Commissioner Marschner asked who would be taking over for the shelter, and would the hiring process start.

Ms. Cunningham stated, the recruitment packet is in process, she has not seen it advertised yet. She stated most likely Sandy Hill will be acting Manager, and Kimberly will be acting for Sandy, until Kimberly takes maternity leave or someone is hired.

2. Discussion and recommendation to the Mayor regarding licensing of cats and dogs

Commissioner Chesney asked Ms. Cunningham if she was able to look at other communities with licensing for comparison of licensing and how to integrate that workflow into the Chameleon Web program.

Ms. Cunningham was able to determine with a conversation through Chameleon web licensing that it will be very helpful. Ms. Cunningham was not able to obtain all the details. Ms. Cunningham noted there are so many things Chameleon can do, and it sounds best to design the program the way you want it, and to go to Chameleon and tell them what you have in mind. **Ms. Cunningham** did not have time to look into other jurisdictions and will not have time before her last day. **Ms. Cunningham** noted looking into and designing a licensing program will be more than looking at other prices of licensing in the state. **Ms. Cunningham** noted seeing the importance and benefits of having all

animals licensed to know what kinds of animals they can expect during an evacuation, such as exotics who need power, tanks, and heat lamps. She further explained there is a lot to setting up the licensing program with Chameleon, she advised the Commission to not let the Chameleon restrictions limit them.

Commissioner Chesney stated they would be in contact with Ms. Hill.

Discussion ensued between **Ms. Cunningham** and the **Commissioners** on tagging, tattooing and chipping animals, and the correlation of the Chameleon program.

3. Discussion and recommendation to the Mayor regarding sled dog housing

Commissioners reviewed the final draft memo to the mayor regarding recommendations of sled dog housing.

Ms. Cunningham noted she had a report on the number of sled dogs.

Commission Chesney noted he worded the memo around not having the numbers.

Ms. Cunningham stated to Commissioner Chesney the content of his letter was correct. She went on to state she was able to get a report which included animal ID's, animals that were on house letters, their coat type, and intake and outcome dates. The house letter when assigned in Chameleon is transient and is only captured permanently when the animal is outcomed. A limitation to the report is if a short-coated dog that went inside and was on a dog kennel number, rather than on a house number, then it was outcomed that way, the report will not reflect that. Another limitation is just the coat description in general is completely subjective, it relies upon opinions and entry from a number of animal tenders and officers, sometimes this information is not included. With understanding of the limitation of the report, in summary, for the past 3 years, limited to this report there were 8 short flat sled dogs on houses, and 4 that were housed in March. She thanked Maryann for all her work she put into researching a temporary short-term fix for shorthaired dogs needing appropriate housing. The hope is to have ideal housing when the new shelter is built.

Discussion ensued between **Ms. Cunningham** and **Commissioners** on the priority of the need for sled dog houses, the reported number of sled dogs housed outside, boxes with better insulation, overcrowding, and other housing options for various animals.

MOTION: To approve the memo to be initialed by **Commissioner Chesney** and submitted to Mayor Ward made by **Commissioner Gardner**, seconded by **Commissioner Marschner**.

MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION OR ROLL CALL VOTE

4. Discussion of the issues associated with the commercial sale of exotic reptiles and animals and how to communicate those concerns to sellers

Commissioner Thornton stated the Commission is at a point of being unable to get the numbers for composing the letter to Petco. He stated they will need numbers for an impactful letter.

Commissioner Gardner stated she collected statics over a number years, she has them on a spreadsheet, which could cover the time period for Petco and after Petco. She will try to obtain the spreadsheets from an old computer.

Discussion ensued among **Commissioners** and **Ms. Cunningham** regarding how to obtain deceased numbers of exotics.

Ms. Cunningham stated she emailed the Animal Control Administrative Assistant to obtain numbers of pounds of cremated exotics from Petco or other exotic commercial agencies in the past 3-5 years, she also cc'd Sandy Hill on the email. She asked for the report to be completed by Friday, August 16, 2019.

Commissioner Thornton asked for a dollar value of how much Petco has spent for disposing of the deceased exotics.

Ms. Cunningham suggested to the Commission to look into laws not allowing certain species to be owned within the Borough. She compared this to Anchorage who does not allow ownership of rats. She stated something else to consider is applying a tax to the purchase of certain animals. These could be some other options or policy recommendations that the Commission could make to the Mayor in addition to tackling the issue from the Petco corporate side.

Discussion ensued among **Ms. Cunningham** and **Commissioners** on dealing with Petco directly vs. going through the Borough first, taxation of animal purchases, and special order animals.

Commissioner Thornton stated he would invite Reptile Rescue to attend a commission meeting to discuss the issue, or if they could submit a written document in regards to the issue.

Ms. Cunningham stated for the Commissioners to email Ms. Hill a reminder on August 1st about obtaining the numbers for the Petco letter, or ask her if she would need more time to gather the numbers.

Discussion ensued on sliders at the shelter and having a rescue/exit plan in place for them, transportation plan to the lower 48 for rescue, partnering with a lower 48 rescue.

Commissioner Thornton stated if he is able to get the numbers by the 16th he will have the Petco letter available at the next meeting. He will also send a written invitation to Reptile Rescue.

F. **NEW BUSINESS** - None

G. **EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES** - August 19, 2019 **Commissioner Chesney** is excused

H. **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner's wished Ms. Cunningham good luck.

Commissioner Rosenberg reported there was an electronic music concert the past weekend, \$2 of every ticket went to the shelter fund. July 15 and 16 are Amazon Prime days, if you shop you can go to smile.amazon.com and pick the shelter fund as your charity. The final Candy Waugaman liquidation sale is July 26, 27 and 28, at 532 Dalton Trail off of Yankovich, the shelter is one of the charities. Wine and Whiskers will take place August 4th at 4pm at the Boatel. Trax will be doing the standup paddle board with your dog event from Graehl Landing to the Boatel. Pints and pups went well. The shelter came in 2nd place out of 58 for the Newsminer's readers favorite. The garage sale will take place in September, no location yet. The shelter fund has received some bequests and is doing a lot of fundraising.

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.