

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION

MINUTES
August 19, 2019

A regular meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Animal Control was held in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers, Juanita Helms Administrative Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Scott Chesney, Chair.

A. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronnie Rosenberg Mary Ann Fortune
 Lindsey Heaney Alex Thornton
 Gail Gardner Scott Chesney

MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED: Jamie Marschner, Link Olson

OTHERS PRESENT: Sandy Hill, Acting Animal Control Manager
 Sharon Wittenkeller, Clerk

B. MESSAGES

1. Citizen's Comments – limited to three (3) minutes - **Extended discussion**

Jamie Straatsma, President of Interior Alaska RAE Rescue spoke in favor of instituting licensing to obtain certain reptiles. She spoke of the concerns of the number of reptiles she rescues and adopts out through her program. Discussion ensued among Commissioners, Ms. Straatsma, and Ms. Hill on concerns of treatment of animals in pet stores, shipping of animals to pet stores, proper education for buyers, and concerns of the reptiles being sold without the proper enclosures or food to sustain them during their life cycle. There was as consensus on concerns for Iguanas and aquatic turtles especially. Discussion ensued on the options for solving the problems regarding the reptiles within the FNSB. The Commission requested a letter from Ms. Straatsma on the impact of the reptiles needing to be rescued and adopted, along with the number of species she sees through her rescue program to help aid in drafting a letter to Petco to voice their concerns.

Tom Swan, of Two Rivers, spoke of his concerns of animal and dog welfare. He suggested an alternative approach to the reptile issue, which would be to require the commercial pet stores to be required to have the reptiles they want to sell in quarantine with a veterinarian for two weeks until they are cleared of diseases. Discussion ensued among Commissioners, Mr. Swan, Ms. Straatsma, and Ms. Hill on the suggestion.

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

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

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

4. **MINUTES**

Minutes from July 15, 2019

Approved on Consent

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. **Shelter report**

Ms. Hill gave her report on shelter capacity, training, events, personnel, Ordinance NO. 2019-34, and (CIP) Capital Improvement Program. Discussion ensued between Ms. Hill and Commissioners on these topics.

2. **Discussion of a recommendation to the Mayor concerning the licensing of animals.**

The Commission still seeks information on the fees, and general overview of licensing within other Boroughs and Cities within Alaska. Ms. Hill will work to obtain this information and report to the Commission.

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

This item was discussed under Citizen's Comments.

6. **EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES** - None.

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

Commissioner Fortune stated Mutt March is August 29th, at Pioneer Park

Commissioner Rosenberg gave a report on the shelter fund activities.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

