

Animal Issues Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2017

I. Call to order

Patti Morris called to order the regular meeting of the Animal Issues Advisory Committee at 1800 hours on April 20, 2017 at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, Port Angeles, WA.

II. Roll call

The following members were present: Patti Morris, Tommy Schwent, Lisa Hopper, Brian Smith, Kathy Sample, and Liz Bumgarner. A quorum was established.

The following Sheriff's Office staff members were present: Animal Control Deputy Tracey Kellas, Administrative Coordinator Lorraine Shore.

The following citizens were present: Tim Annis and Rob Winters (citizens) Shari Hamilton from the Pet Posse.

County Commissioner Randy Johnson and DCD Director Mary Ellen Winborn arrived to speak at the meeting as well.

Members introduced themselves and gave a brief background to those present for the benefit of the citizens in attendance.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Motion was made by Tommie Schwent to approve minutes of February 16, 2017 AIAC Meeting. Motion was seconded by Brian Smith and unanimously approved.

IV. Old Business

a) Status update on AIAC approved chapters

Tracey Kellas advised the committee that the proposed changes to the ordinance were with Prosecutor David Alvarez for review. There was discussion among the committee regarding the length of time it has taken for the ordinance changes to be reviewed and put into place. Patti Morris requested the changes once again be sent back to the committee, prior to the BOCC hearing, after Prosecutor Alvarez has finalized them.

V. Public Comment

a) Commissioner Johnson and DCD Director Mary Ellen Winborn

- Commissioner Johnson was present on behalf of the citizens Tim Annis and Rob Winters who attended the meeting. Johnson stated that he has received numerous calls regarding animals on property and Mr. Annis and Mr. Winters were having issues with noise, smell and waste coming from an adjacent property.

Johnson said he has had seven people call him regarding animal issues since he took office in January 2017. He passed out a one sheet typed letter signed by Tim Annis and stamped received by BOCC on 4/17/17. The letter detailed issues Mr. Annis has had with neighbors regarding animals since 2005. In the letter Mr. Annis alleges that he spoke with Commissioner Chapman in 2016 regarding the problem and that Animal Control has done nothing regarding the issue.

Tracey Kellas, CCSO Animal Control Deputy was aware of this particular situation and the other individual Commissioner Johnson discussed.

Tracey stated she has personally cited the individual with the pigs over 20 times and the animal owner is currently going thru the court system regarding this issue. Lisa Hopper, Sequim Animal Control, was present at the meeting and stated she also cited the animal owner 10 times when she lived in Sequim. The issue is complex and involves dealing with mental illness, state laws, county ordinances and the court system.

Tracey explained the process of a citation and that it goes to the Prosecutor's Office where they generally reach a deal. This issue involves a resident who has been cited numerous times for Livestock At Large

17.04.050 Livestock at large – Violations.

Any person who owns or has possession, charge, or control of livestock shall not allow them to run at large.

(1) Livestock escaping from or being outside of any area fence meant to restrain them more than three (3) times in a twelve (12) month period shall constitute prima facie evidence of inadequate fencing.

(2) It shall not be necessary for any person to fence against such animals, and it shall be no defense to any action or proceeding brought pursuant to this chapter.

Tracey explained there is a Statute on fencing but no penalty for violating it so she can only cite when the animal gets loose. Tracey has attempted to enlist the assistance of Adult Protective Services, however they will not testify to assist with prosecution.

Tim Annis spoke about the years he and his neighbors have been dealing with this problem and that it was getting very unsanitary. He does not want to be “pushed out” of his house by his neighbor.

Mary Ellen Winborn said she was unsure how to address the issue of the number of animals that can be supported on property. She asked the members of the AIAC to do research and provide her with suggestions on how to implement zoning requirements.

Discussion ensued regarding restricting rights of animal owners regarding number of animals kept with the examples mentioned of a responsible owner who is able to properly maintain several animals on an acre of land vs an irresponsible owner who may not be able to maintain one animal per acre.

The City of Battle Ground has an animal ordinance 6.10.075 – Large animals – Premises that makes it unlawful to keep a large animal (defined as exceeding 100 pounds or more except domestic dogs) on less than one-half acre of unimproved property.

<http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/BattleGround/html/BattleGround06/BattleGround0610.html#6.10.075>

For a comprehensive list of WA County and City ordinances involving animal control regulations see: <http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Public-Safety/Licensing-and-Regulation/Animal-Control/Comprehensive-Animal-Control-Regulations.aspx>

Examples of Codes Permitting/Restricting the Number of Animals in Households

- [Brier Municipal Code Sec. 6.04.170](#) – Restricts the number permitted per household to three cats and three dogs. [Ch. 17.16](#) sets out performance criteria for horses and livestock.

- [Douglas County Code Sec. 6.04.230\(H\)](#) – Sets prohibitions within animal control zones, such as the number of livestock allowed and minimum acreage for each type of farm animal listed.
- [Franklin County Code Sec. 17.26.030\(C\)](#) – RS-40 suburban district allows one animal for each full 10,000 sq. ft. parcel, minus the effective lot size of the dwelling, and restricts the location the animals.
- [Lynnwood Municipal Code Sec. 6.02.130](#) – Sets maximum number of pets permitted per household (three cats or three dogs, or two miniature pot-bellied pigs, or any combination of cats and dogs not exceeding three in number that are over 6-months old).
- [SeaTac Municipal Code Sec. 15.440.100](#) – Offers a chart showing lot size and number of ‘outside’ animals allowed, no similar limits place on ‘indoor’ animals
- [Seattle Municipal Code Sec. 23.42.052](#) – Covers the keeping of small animals, domestic fowl, and bees, and permits keeping of some farm animals based on lot size.
- [Shoreline Municipal Code, Land Use Code Sec. 20.40.240](#) – Provides limitations for number of small animals chickens, and livestock based on lot size.
- [Walla Walla Municipal Code Ch. 20.130.020](#) – Sets maximum number of animals permitted based on lot size.
- [Wenatchee Municipal Code Sec. 5.28.020](#) – Requires owners purchase an excess pet license in order to keep more than three dogs and three cats that are over 4-months old in any one premise.

Motion by Brian Smith for AIAC review of ordinances from other jurisdictions regarding care and capacity. 2nd by Tommy Schwent.

Discussion – Liz asked to clarify that the ordinances would be related to WA State.

Motion unanimously approved and consensus by committee members to set next AIAC meeting for May 18, 2017 at 6pm to address this issue.

VI. New Business

a) Purpose of the Animal Issues Advisory Committee

- Patti Morris clarified that the job of the AIAC is to look at the overall picture to prevent problems involving animal issues but the committee does not deal with specific cases.

b) AIAC Replacement for PAPD Chief Brian Smith

- Brian said that the City of Port Angeles and the Pet Posse have a draft agreement to have the Pet Posse transport animals to the Olympic Humane Society. They will possibly help with reuniting the animals with owners. The City of PA plans to reimburse Pet Posse at .53 cents/mile for transport. The Pet Posse will not do Animal Control but assist P.A. with temporarily housing animals and transporting them. The Pet Posse brought this idea to the City of P.A.

VII. Announcement

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 1800 hours in the BOCC.

VIII. Adjournment

Patti Morris adjourned the meeting at 1900 hours.

Minutes submitted by: Lorraine Shore