

Quality of Life Council Committee

Meeting Record

(DRAFT)

Meeting Date: 4-28-2008

Convened: 12:06 p.m.

Adjourned: 2:05 p.m.

Pauline Medrano, Chair
Vonciel Jones Hill, Vice Chair
Carolyn R. Davis
Sheffie Kadane
David A. Neumann
Steve Salazar
Angela Hunt
Elba Garcia (non-member)
Linda Koop (non-member)
Dwayne Caraway (non-member)

Briefing Presenters:

-Forest Turner, Director of Code Compliance
-Karen Rayzer, Director of Environmental Health Services

Staff Present:

Mary Suhm, Tom Perkins, Maria Munoz-Blanco, John Phipps, Forest Turner, Sheila Delgado, Lynetta Moore, Tyrone McGill, Paul Curington, Rosa Rios, Dilip Shah, Jesus Toscano, Deborah Watkins, Frank Libro

Special Guests:

Animal Shelter Commission

AGENDA:

1. **Approval of April 14, 2008 minutes**

Presenter(s):

Information Only: _____

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Motion to approve the April 14, 2008 minutes.

Motion made by: David Neumann

Item passed unanimously: X

Item failed unanimously: _____

Motion seconded by: Elba Garcia

Item passed on a divided vote: _____

Item failed on a divided vote: _____

2. **12:08 p.m. Closed Executive Session (returned at 12:27p.m.)**

3. **Proposed Ordinances for Animal Control**

Presenter(s): Forest Turner

Information Only: _____

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The purpose of the briefing was to review the Animal Shelter Commission's recommended changes to Chapter 7 "Animals" of the Dallas City Code and compare current practice to what is being proposed by the Commission. The Dallas Animal Shelter Advisory Commission recommended the following proposed changes to Chapter 7 to address animal overpopulation: enacting mandatory spay/neuter, restricting tethering and setting minimum standards for proper confinement, limiting the number of dogs and cats per household, and strengthening the dangerous dog ordinance.

Recommended changes to require mandatory spay/neuter were that all dogs and cats be neutered unless the owner has a breeder permit (a breeder permit will be issued only for a dog or cat breed recognized by the nationally recognized breed registry.) Exceptions would be made for the following: dog/cats under six months of age, dogs/cats unable to be spayed or neutered for health reasons, dogs used by law enforcement agencies for law enforcement purposes, service or

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assistance dogs that assist disabled persons, a purebred dog or cat that competes, dogs/cats held for sale in retail pet stores and for adoption by Dallas Animal Services and animal welfare organizations. (Pet owners will have 120 days after the ordinance passes to comply.)

Recommended changes to place restrictions on tethering include eliminating tethering as a proper restraint unless in the presence of the owner, require that if a dog is temporarily tethered the collar be of leather or nylon and properly fitted, the tether be attached to the harness or collar and not the dog's neck, the tether meet certain requirements for length and strength, set minimum standards for confining a dog outdoors (owners will have 90 days after the ordinance passes to comply).

Recommended changes to establish limits on the number of dogs and cats per household include limiting the number of dogs/cats in dwelling units with no common walls to no more than a combined total of six, pet owners currently with more than six animals will be permitted to keep their animals (grandfather clause) and provide exemptions to foster care providers who have been approved.

Recommended changes to strengthen the dangerous dog ordinance include providing a definition for "bodily injury" and "serious bodily injury", allow the director to seize a dog that has caused bodily injury to a person, allow the director to order a dangerous dog removed from the City, allow the director to seize and impound a dangerous dog if the owner fails to comply with all requirements. The amendments will require the owner of a dog that has been ordered seized or impounded to surrender the dog, require the owner of a dangerous dog to have the dog spayed/neutered, require the owner to obtain \$100,000 of liability coverage to cover damages or injuries and prohibit anyone from bringing dangerous dogs into the City.

Several other miscellaneous items were discussed as well including adding a permit program, late fees if an owner does not register a pet on time, prohibiting offering animals as prizes, prohibited animals, and setting minimum fines for violators.

Mr. Neumann requested the item move forward for recommendation to the full council if the Quality of Life committee received additional information on fees, cost recovery, enforcement plan and educational information.

Motion made by: David Neumann

Item passed unanimously: __X__

Item failed unanimously: _____

Motion seconded by: Vonciel Jones Hill

Item passed on a divided vote: _____

Item failed on a divided vote: _____

4. Amendments to Variances for Dogs Update

Presenter(s): Karen Rayzer

Information Only: _____

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

On February 25, 2008 the Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee was briefed on the proposed amendments for dogs on outdoor patios. Some of the concerns were signage, the dogs not to be allowed on any seat, table, or countertop, the dog not be allowed to have any contact with any dishes or utensils used for food service or preparation, the dog patio must be continuously

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maintained free of visible dog hair, dog dander, and other dog-related waste or debris. There was also concern that six hours was too long between waste or debris.

The following agreements were made to address these concerns: the outdoor patio must be continuously maintained free of visible dog hair, dog dander, and other dog related wastes. A sign must be posted at the front entrance of the food establishment stating "Dog Friendly Patio- Dog access only through outdoor patio." A dog may not be given any food while in the outdoor patio area but may be given water in a disposable container.

If approved the proposed ordinance will be brought forth for Council approval on May 28, 2008.

Both Mr. Caraway and Mr. Neumann opposed.

Motion made by: Angela Hunt

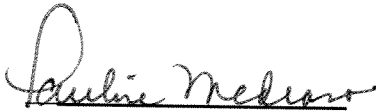
Item passed unanimously: _____

Item failed unanimously: _____

Motion seconded by: Sheffie Kadane

Item passed on a divided vote: X

Item failed on a divided vote: _____



Pauline Medrano
Chair