

District IV Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2009
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The **District IV Advisory Board Meeting** was held at the 6:30 p.m. at the Wichita Ice Center, 505 W Maple.

Members Present

Tom Engelmann
Michael Ackermann
Nancy Wilhite
Jim Benton
Gerald Marsh
Ed Koon
Hestel Sewell
Joshua Blick

Staff Present

Officer Perkins, Police
Dennis Graves, Environmental Services
Kelli Glassman, City Manager's Office
Officer Nienstedt, Police
Don Henry, Environmental Services
City Manager Robert Layton

Order of Business

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

The March 4, 2009 agenda was approved 10-0 (Blick/Benton)

The February 4, 2009 minutes were approved 8-0 (Engelmann/Sewell)

Public Agenda

The public agenda allows members of the public to present issues not on the agenda to the District Advisory Board. Each presentation is limited to five minutes unless extended by the Board.

1. Scheduled Items

No items were scheduled

2. Off-Agenda Items

No items were scheduled

Staff Presentations

3. Public Safety Reports

Community Police Report

Officers present reported the following:

- Auto theft and larceny at 100 S Seneca
- ATV complaints at 55th and Gold – contacting out-of-state owners to resolve
- Burglaries at the Wichita Ice Center
- Increased graffiti on Orient from Seneca to Meridian
- Vandalism at 1600 S Seneca
- Burglary crime trend at 3rd and Meridian
- Arson at the Taco Shop at Central and West
- St. Patrick's Day parade in Delano March 14
- Police Neighborhood Summit March 14

Action Taken: Received and filed.

4. Fire Report

Staff present reminded everyone that at this time of the year the weather is warming and dry grass becomes present and can cause fires

New Business

5. Revision of Chapter 6.04 (Animal Control and Protection); deleting Chapter 6.12 (Keeping Animals and Fowl) and Chapter 6.16 (Cats)

Don Henry and Dennis Graves, Environmental Services, presented information on this item.

The Environmental Services (ES) Department administers Title Six of the City Code, which includes regulations for animal control and protection, keeping animals and fowl and cats. Animal Control Officers and a Public Health Sanitarian are assigned to enforce these chapters. In the fourth quarter of 2006, the City Council strengthened the dangerous dog ordinance by approving an ordinance revision. At that time, the City Council also requested that the ES Department track pit bull information separately that included a request for a report one year later to determine whether or not additional measures were needed to address pit bull concerns.

ES investigated 733 dog bites and attacks in 2008. Pit bulls accounted for 246 of those bites and attacks. The Wichita Animal Shelter housed over 6,000 dogs and almost 1,800 of those dogs housed were pit bulls. Over 4,600 stray dogs or dogs running at large were collected by animal control officers; 1,279 of those were pit bulls. ES believes these statistics demonstrate a need to implement regulatory improvements for pit bull ownership. A letter to the Mayor

and City Council dated January 22, 2009 is attached below along with Animal Services 2008 Dog Statistics and Wichita Pit Bull Statistics for 2008 are provided in three attachments below. These statistics demonstrate that 25-30% of all dog related animal services activities involve pit bulls. Other code revisions changes have been requested by the public or are being proposed as a result of recent situations that require regulatory improvement.

Proposed changes to Chapter 6.04 are shown in the attached delineated code, and summarized in the attached chart. These revisions include: 1) New pit bull ownership restrictions; 2) Amendments to allow flexibility with rabies vaccination schedule; 3) New animal nuisance provisions; 4) Additional requirements for Commercial Animal Establishments; 5) Comprehensive changes to Animal Maintenance Permit system and increased fees; 6) Changes to Breeder's License requirements including alignment with Unified Zoning Code; 7) Amendments to owning livestock including mandatory acreage requirements; and 8) New regulations for dog parks. Also, Chapters 6.12 and 6.16 were deleted and incorporated into Chapter 6.04.

The proposed revision of Animal Maintenance Permit (AMP) fees will help offset program costs. Domestic dog and cat AMP fees will increase from \$20 to \$25. Livestock AMP fees will increase from either \$20 or \$50 to \$100. Revenue projections are based on 800 AMPs in 2008. Revenue will increase from \$17,000 to \$42,500, or a 40% increase.

Citizens addressing the board had the following concerns/comments (*staff response in italics*):

- Distinguishing a pit bull from a mixed breed. *Breeds are registered with the American Kennel Club and have to meet 5 of the 8 criteria to be considered a member of the breed.*
- Assistance animals, regardless of breed, are excluded from regulations which can pose safety concerns for others in this setting. *There has been a federal law enacted which allows for this, but revisions to this law are being looked at and there are other measures that can be taken to protect people before a dangerous dog actually bite someone.*
- Clarification that there is no state law regarding frequency of vaccination and the new regulations will leave this up to the vet and owner to determine proper vaccination timetables
- Microchipping is not required but encouraged through a licensing discount over tattooing because tattoos fade over time and get covered when the dog's hair grows.

Action Taken: Provided comments/ feedback for staff and City Council review and consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

6. No items were submitted

BOARD AGENDA

7. Board Updates and Issues

- Marsh mentioned that the rails to trails proposal for Seneca to McLean has been submitted several times, but is still #3 or #4 on the list.

8. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.