

Animal Control Board
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Penn Room / Hybrid

Members Attending: H. Brown in person; A. Miller, C. DiLella, D. Straub - virtually

Others Attending: S. Smith – in person; C. Reed, M. McCrystal – virtually

Call to Order

Ms. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. She noted that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Dr. DiLella, seconded by Ms. Miller, to approve the December 12, 2024 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Baller, Ms. Herbert, and Ms. Harnish connected to the meeting virtually at this time.

Animal Control Agency Report

Ms. Baller stated that she has been out of the office and has not compiled a report for this meeting.

Permit Application

- **535 Park Ave – more than 6 dogs / cats**

Ms. Harnish stated that there are seven dogs at this location.

Ms. Miller stated that the permit application shows that the dogs are all male and are updated on their vaccinations. Ms. Harnish agreed and stated that all of the dogs have their rabies vaccines and their licenses. She stated that the owner has voiced financial concerns. She stated that the animals have passed inspection but that renewal costs may cause a struggle.

Ms. Baller stated that all of the animals are neutered. Ms. Harnish agreed and stated that there is no concern about future litters. She stated that all of the dogs had hernia surgery which remains unpaid. She expressed the belief that financial difficulties will be probable.

Mr. Straub suggested a Go Fund Me for the owner if he is in need.

Ms. Baller stated that there is only one dog over the limit. She stated that follow up will be done when the permit expires.

Dr. DiLella questioned if the owner would relinquish one dog. Ms. Baller stated that several were already relinquished as originally the owner had ten dogs. Ms. Harnish stated that ARL

offered to remove additional dogs but that the owner is not willing to do so. She stated that there were puppies but that they have been rehomed.

Mr. Reed agreed that the owner was adamant about not relinquishing additional dogs when the permit application was filed.

Ms. Baller stated that there is nothing to preclude approval. She stated that there is adequate food and conditions passed inspection.

Ms. Miller stated that the report shows that the animals are well cared for and well fed. She stated that the requirements have been met and that renewal is not for three years. She expressed the belief that the permit cannot be denied based on possible future financial strains. She stated that the owner did what needed to be done. She expressed the belief that the permit should be granted.

Motion was made by Mr. Straub, seconded by Mr. Brown, to approve the permit application for seven dogs at 535 Park Ave.

Mr. Brown noted his agreement with Ms. Miller. He stated that the owner is only one dog over the limit and that future rabies vaccines will be every three years after the initial dose. He stated that this will also assist with future costs. He noted the need to continue working with the owner as necessary.

Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- **2316 Berkley Rd** – rooster, chickens

Ms. Herbert stated that she spoke with a resident today and stated that the wife indicated that her husband did not inform her of the issue. The wife has now also been informed that the chickens cannot be kept. She stated that the wife indicated that they would file for the necessary permits.

Ms. Harnish stated that she also spoke with the resident and that they would not relinquish the chickens. She stated that the rooster had been removed. She stated that there are also issues with dogs at this location and she suggested that the City file a notice of violation.

Mr. Reed stated that the owner indicated that they would file the Zoning application this afternoon. He reminded all that this application has a \$1,200 filing fee.

Ms. Herbert stated that she gave the resident a deadline of Friday to file the application. She stated that if this deadline is not met she will file a notice of violation.

Ms. Harnish stated that she has been working with these residents for several months and have given them the required application forms. She expressed the belief that the residents hope that the City will just go away and stop following up.

- **2311 River Rd** (legal address 2321 River Rd) – chickens

Ms. Harnish stated that no further complaint calls have been received. She stated that she is unsure if the chickens remain.

Ms. Miller noted the need to recheck the location to confirm the presence or absence of chickens.

Ms. Harnish stated that this yard is contiguous with 2316 Berkley Rd and expressed the belief that there are chickens at both addresses.

Dr. DiLella stated that she has also had complaints about this address. She agreed with the need to follow up.

Ms. Herbert stated that a neighbor has complained that the chickens are let out to wander the neighborhood after 4:30 pm when City staff is no longer on duty.

Dr. DiLella questioned if staff could visit the area after 4:30 pm. Ms. Herbert stated that City staff finish their day at 4 pm. Ms. Harnish stated that ARL knows the chickens are there so the City does not need to see them.

Mr. Reed stated that City staff must have first-hand knowledge prior to issuing notices of violation. He requested photos from ARL to move forward. Ms. Harnish stated that she will provide photos to Mr. Reed.

Mr. Brown questioned how the yards connect. Ms. Harnish stated that one property ends at the other's front door and you cannot see one of the yards. She stated that there is an alley between the properties.

Mr. Reed reminded all that Property Maintenance Inspectors cannot enter a person's property without permission.

Mr. Straub noted the need to continue enforcement so that other residents don't believe that they may also have chickens.

- **1505 N 12th St** – more than 6 dogs / cats

Ms. Miller stated that this property is now below the limit for dogs / cats. Ms. Harnish agreed that one dog remains.

Ms. Miller noted the need to remove this address from the agenda.

- **Animal Care Education**

Ms. Smith screen shared the brochures that she created for animal ownership and for keeping exotic animals and more than 6 dogs / cats. She stated that she has emailed the documents to members and is open to comments and corrections.

Mr. Straub questioned if the brochures would be shared with the Police Department. Ms. Smith stated that they will be shared once they are finalized.

Ms. Miller requested that members send comments quickly so that the brochures can be completed with the coming of warmer weather.

New Business

- **1023 Greenwich St – more than 6 dogs / cats**

Ms. Harnish stated that the inspection is scheduled to occur shortly.

Mr. Reed stated that this rental property passed inspection in 2022. He reminded all that the property owner has the option to reschedule.

Ms. Harnish questioned if the tenant in violation is aware of the inspection. Mr. Reed stated that the City works with the property owner and not the tenant.

Ms. Miller requested an overview of this property. Ms. Harnish stated that a tenant is over the 6 dogs / cats limit and has not submitted the application. She stated that the number of animals has grown.

- **Animal Ordinance Amendment**

Ms. Smith and Mr. McCrystal stated that they have no update.

Ms. Smith stated that her last correspondence indicated that ARL would be working with the City's legal staff.

Ms. Baller stated that she and the PA Dog Warden have made amendment suggestions to Ms. Mikulsky but that she is not aware that there has been forward movement. She stated that she will follow up with Ms. Mikulsky.

Other Matters

- **Deceased Chickens and Roosters**

Ms. Harnish stated that ARL was called to clean up decapitated chickens and roosters which were found in a trash bag on Mt. Penn. She stated that this is sometimes seen in religious rituals. She stated that the trash bag also contained mail including a name and address. She stated that ARL is familiar with this person. She stated that this is permitted for religious reasons but that there needs to be proper disposal.

Dr. DiLella questioned if the animals had Bird Flu. Ms. Harnish stated that they were not tested but that they did not show signs of the illness.

Mr. Reed stated that this would be considered illegal dumping by the City. He requested proof of the address by photo so that a citation can be issued. He requested that future discoveries such as this one be reported to him immediately.

Ms. Baller stated that ARL would have body cam footage of the discovery. Ms. Harnish confirmed.

Mr. Reed stated that this is eligible for immediate citation.

Next Meeting

Ms. Miller suggested meeting in six months unless there is a need to meet sooner. She noted the need to provide comments to Ms. Smith about the brochures via email.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Smith, CMC
Deputy City Clerk