

Board of Health
Wednesday, November 2, 2011
Penn Room

Members Attending: E. Kimball, J. Wong

Others Attending: D. D'Auria, P. Hatt, M. Loaiza, E. Overly

Call to Order

Dr. Kimball called the Board of Health meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Agenda and Minutes

Dr. Kimball called the Board's attention to the lack of quorum. She explained that, as a result of the lack of quorum the agenda and the minutes from the March 2nd meeting would not be able to be approved.

Health Officer's Report

Erin Overly, Chief Clerk in the Property Maintenance Division, stated that in October, City Health Officer, Dr. Hassle, administered 90 flu shots to City employees. The employee flu shot make up date is set for November.

Ms. Overly shared that 16 handicapped parking spaces were approved in October. She explained that the application and approval process for handicapped parking.

Dr. Kimball inquired about the procedure to remove a marked space when the applicant moves from the neighborhood. Ms. Overly stated that the current procedure relies on the applicant and/or neighbors, as the applicant would need to call to change the location or neighbors would have to call and inform the Codes office of the need to remove the space due to a move.

Ms. Overly reported that there were five (5) health inspections per day in October. Dr. Kimball requested a further explanation on what type of facilities this entailed. Ms. Overly replied that health inspections include such establishments as restaurants, corner grocery stores, sidewalk vendors, etc.

Dr. Kimball questioned the lead follow-up process when a complaint is placed by a constituent. Ms. Overly explained that lead nurses visit the property and if they cannot gain entry to the property the Codes office is then contacted for assistance. She stated that the nurses do the swipes and the Codes office takes care of the enforcement.

Dr. Kimball inquired on how many inspectors are dedicated to lead abatement. Ms. Overly stated that there is no specific inspector assigned to lead abatement. There are two (2) Complaint Officers and abatement is assigned to an officer once action is determined necessary.

Dr. Kimball requested clarity from Ms. Overly regarding the Codes Officer's specific responsibilities for inspections. Ms. Overly explained that the Officers cover rental inspections, complaints, and some are designated floaters and fill in where needed. She added that the work of the Codes office is limited due to current staffing numbers.

Dr. Kimball expressed her gratitude for the information that Ms. Overly provided.

Tattoo Parlor Ordinance

Ms. Diana D'Auria, City Legal Specialist, was introduced and welcomed to the Board.

Ms. D'Auria inquired on the Board's desire to move forward with the draft that was put together or if they were looking at a different approach. Dr. Kimball replied that they would like her opinion/advice on what direction they should take.

Ms. D'Auria suggested that striking a balance between the draft and a permit format would be best. Dr. Kimball inquired if a permit can be issued without a license. Ms. D'Auria replied that she would look into that and get back to her at the following meeting.

Dr. Wong informed Ms. D'Auria that the draft compiled by combining regulations of various other cities current legislation. Ms. D'Auria noted that she was given the background information from Legal Specialist Tonya Butler.

Ms. D'Auria stated that she believes that a permit is a good idea but it would require less oversight in comparison to a license.

Dr. Kimball inquired if the City of Lancaster's legislation was for a permit and who oversees the actual enforcement of the regulations. Ms. D'Auria explained that a Borough Health Department would oversee that permit and its regulations.

Dr. Wong noted his belief that there would be a benefit in County-wide enforcement of the proposed tattoo permit/license legislation.

Ms. Hatt inquired how the tattoo permit process differs from the current restaurant permit process.

Ms. Overly explained the Health Permit process as listed in Chapter 10 of the codified ordinances to the Board.

Ms. Hatt inquired if the tattoo legislation could be patterned against the current Health/Restaurant permit. Ms. D'Auria concurred with Ms. Hatt's suggestion.

Ms. Overly expressed that she understood that the concept would be the same but explained the differences in training, etc.

Ms. Hatt questioned how the Board decided to pursue this issue. Dr. Wong explained the influx of patients he was seeing that had contracted Hepatitis C and did not know how it was contracted. He also explained the correlation of patients that were diagnosed and who had tattoos.

Ms. D'Auria inquired if the Board had reviewed any State legislation in place for tattoo parlors/shops. Dr. Kimball explained that Ms. Butler researched State legislation and discovered a proposed bill but that nothing had been enacted.

Ms. D'Auria stated that she will provide follow-up at the next meeting.

City Emergency Plan

Ms. Loaiza updated the Board on her previous conversation with Deputy Fire Chief James Conrad. She stated that Deputy Fire Chief Conrad stated that he was receiving more assistance from City departments in efforts to complete the City Emergency Plan.

Ms. Loaiza inquired if the Board would like Deputy Fire Chief Conrad to attend the next meeting to provide an update on the City Emergency Plan. The Board agreed. Ms. Loaiza stated that she would call Deputy Fire Chief Conrad and make the arrangements.

NALBOH Conference

Dr. Kimball updated the Board on her experience at the National Board of Health Conference including a power point presentation about the Bunker Hill Superfund Site she visited during the conference.

Dr. Wong inquired if there was an update on the local issue at Bernhart Park. Dr. Kimball stated that the grassy areas have been remediated, but the parking lot and trails have not.

Dr. Kimball praised Ms. Deb Hoag, City Sewer Systems Manager, for her hard work on researching the City contract with Saylor Homes.

Dr. Wong inquired if there has been any damage to the dam due to the extreme weather experienced recently. Dr. Kimball explained that to her knowledge there has not been any damage to the dam but the excessive rain has helped clarify the condition of the dam.

At this time Dr. Kimball explained the background of the Bernhart Park to Ms. Hatt.

Bedbugs

Ms. Loaiza called the Board's to the letter from Dr. Hassel, City Health Officer, regarding his concerns with the current bedbug problem in the City.

Dr. Wong expressed his belief that the issue is more of a family problem. Dr. Kimball disagreed.

Ms. Overly stated that the issue seems to be prominent in multi-unit properties and senior housing high rises. She explained the current tenant-landlord issues regarding to bedbugs due to the lack of specification of abatement responsibilities in leases and suggested that the issue be placed on next month's agenda and discussed further with the Board.

Member Update

Ms. Loaiza explained to the Board that there is a need to recruit new members. She confirmed with Dr. Kimball that as of January 2012 she will no longer work or reside within the City limits. She also shared that there is still an opening for an alternate and another medical professional.

Dr. Kimball inquired about Mr. Webb, citizen-at-large, status. Ms. Loaiza explained that he has been absent numerous times but has called in each time to explain his conflicting work schedule.

Ms. Loaiza explained that there was a change in the enabling legislation that would limit members to three (3) unexcused absences but questioned the ability to enforce this due to Mr. Webb calling in prior to the meeting to explain his inability to attend. Ms. D'Auria read the Charter excerpt that explained the Board member attendance.

Next there was a discussion on potential candidates for the various available openings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The next meeting was scheduled for December 7th at 6pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Maritza Loaiza,
Administrative Assistant to City Clerk*