



**Bismarck Animal Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2018**

The Bismarck Animal Advisory Board met on February 15, 2018, at 12:00 PM. in the Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Conference Room, 500 East Front Ave. Chairman Askvig presided.

Advisory Board members present were Josh Askvig, Tait Sundstrom, Teri Benson- Holmstrom, Sue Buchholz, and Barb Plum. Others present included Lt. Jeff Solemsaas, Whitnie Olsen and Jason Tomanek.

Board members Stacy Voegele and Terry Lincoln were absent.

Chairman Askvig called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Minutes

Chairman Askvig called for consideration of the minutes of the January 17, 2018 Animal Advisory Board meeting.

Motion: Teri Benson-Holmstrom made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting. Tait Sundstrom seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with board members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

Review Animal Control Draft Ordinances

Chairman Askvig opened discussion for the Animal Control Draft Ordinances. Tait Sundstrom recapped the discussion from the January 2018 meeting. A recommendation was made to review different options in regards to the misdemeanor charges associated with the Ordinance. Chairman Askvig noted that an addition to the ordinance regarding the feeding of wild animals might be necessary. The City's Administration office will collaborate with the Attorney's office to address the Board's concerns with the draft ordinance.

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Public Policy/Animal Welfare Division

Chairman Askvig opened the discussion by asking for thoughts on the AVMA Public Policy. The board agreed unanimously that educating the public and various businesses about the difference between service versus support animals would be a good starting place to ensure that the policy is not abused. The board asked City Staff to reach out to different agencies such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Protection and Advocacy Disability Rights North Dakota (P&A) for information to provide to the public. City staff will reach out to DHS as well as P&A to invite them to attend the next scheduled meeting.

Education and Public Outreach

Teri Benson-Holmstrom started the discussion by suggesting that a timeline be established with different topics being the focus of the scheduled public outreach. Topics discussed at prior meetings include:



General Awareness

- Information from the Police Department – Animal Control regarding trends and reports involving animal statistics
- Service animals and defining 'what is a service animal',
- Annual budget for City of Bismarck Animal Control
- Spaying and neutering pets
- Establishing a fund to help spay/neuter unclaimed animals from City of Bismarck Animal Impound

Ordinance

- General review of City ordinances relating to animal regulations
- Fostering pets in regard to City ordinances – is there a grace period for too many pets?
- Leash Laws

Education

- Ways to better promote reunification with lost pets
- What is the maximum number of pets allowed in a home?
- What is the process for filing a complaint when someone has too many pets?
- What happens after a complaint is filed against someone that has too many pets?
- What is the regulation relating to dogs left in cars?

Board member Tait Sundstrom will draft examples for the board to review at the next meeting.

Other Business

Board member, Teri Benson- Holmstrom, discussed the scheduled meeting dates and made a proposal to have the standing meeting moved from the third Thursday of each month to the second Thursday. The scheduled meeting for March will remain March, 15th 2018 and discussion of the proposed change will be added to the agenda.

Chairman Askvig will contact board members Stacy Voegele and Terry Lincoln regarding attendance and interest in remaining on the board.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Josh Askvig at 12:51 PM.

The next meeting of the Bismarck Animal Advisory Board will be held at 12:00 PM. on Thursday, March 15, 2018 in the main conference room of the Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Building. Board members will review and discuss education material for the public, discuss service animal rights and responsibilities and review future meeting dates.

Reported by Whitnie Olsen