

DRAFT

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Date: **June 16, 2014**
Location: **Zimmerman Center, 1801 Virginia Lane**
Time: **6:30pm**

MINUTES

Call to order: 6:35pm

Role Call:

Present: **Robert Pumphrey, Jeannette Vieg, Delmer Schmidt,
David Klein**

Absent:

Elections: **Delmar Schmidt – was elected as Chairman of the Board**

New Business:

DOGS ALLOWED WITHIN CITY PARKS ON LEASH

Mark Jarvis of the City of Billings Parks Department presented information in favor of allowing dogs within City of Billings Parks when on a leash:

Mr. Jarvis explained that changes in Society and feelings about dogs warranted changes to a law adopted in 1964. Pets have become more in our lives. Estimated that approximately 68,000 dogs live within the City of Billings. 80% of homes own at least one dog. Ordinance should be updated to allow dogs within City Parks and Trails.

Public education of pet etiquette would need to be a key part
Responsible Pet Ownership
Picking up waste
Not allowing their pets to be a problem for others enjoying the park
Updated Fees
Beefing up enforcement
Peer pressure
Plastic bag dispensers for waste pickup

Mr. Jarvis explained that the current Dog Park where dogs are allowed to be off leash receives an average of 500 visitors per day (as high as 420 visits during winter months – up to 1800 during summer). Rules for the park are clearly posted.

Discussion: Cost for plastic bag dispensers and bags. Possible volunteer program for Park Rangers who would approach pet owners with educational materials about the rules of the park, possibly hand out waste bags, would not have any enforcement powers.

Animal Control Supervisor, Dave Klein, explained that unfortunately staffing levels currently only allow enforcement of the no dogs allowed in city parks law on an as time allows which is very rare. Officers running from call to call to call have very little if any time during warmer months when the parks are most used, to patrol parks for dogs. Those currently taking their dogs in the parks, mainly the irresponsible pet owner, could be held responsible by other pet owners who are using a leash to control their dog. Mr. Klein also explained that a recent incident where an Officer had enforced the no dogs allowed in city parks ordinance was dropped as it was found out that waste bag dispensers were located within the City Park for pet owners to use. The location of these bags would require a pet owner with their pet on a 6' leash to enter the park in order to get one of the bags. At another park within the city where bags are provided is also located on the outer edge of the park giving the impression that dogs would be allowed in the park.

HONEY BEES ALLOWED WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS

Lonnie Larson presented information on Honey Bees and his proposal that Honey Bees be allowed to be kept within the City Limits of Billings.

Mr. Larson explained that he is the President of the Yellowstone Valley Beekeepers Association.

- Other Cities are allowing the keeping of bees
- Rarely does a honey bee sting
- Yellow jackets and other bees are aggressive
- Honey bees are misunderstood by the Public

Mr. Larson present ordinances allowing bees within Helena and Great Falls (see attached copies provided)

Mr. Larson present a proposed ordinance for the City of Billings (see attached copy)

- Requires limit for distance from property line
- Number of hives allowed
- Allowance for 3 Nuc hives

Mr. Larson explained that his organization would be willing to assist with any swarms or other issues that might arise. Requirements could include registering with the City of Billings, the State of Montana, and possible

requirement for inspection by the State if needed.

Mr. Larson explained that his organization would be willing to provide education to Animal Control Staff and possible bee keepers. Ordinance could require an application process and other requirements. Mr. Larson feels those interested would be a small group.

Other materials provided – see attached.

Dale Matthaes presented to the Board that it was his opinion that dogs should not be allowed to ride in the front seat of vehicles.

Mr. Matthaes explained that this was a very dangerous practice and he would like to see an Ordinance prohibiting this practice. Mr. Matthaes explained that on many occasions he has seen near miss accidents as a result of pets being allowed to ride in the front seat. People allowing dogs on the laps as they drive. Mr. Mattaes feels this is a safety issue for not only citizens but also for the animals. Ordinance should require that pets in vehicles be kept in cages or restrained in the backseat.

Discussion:

Animal Control Supervisor, Dave Klein, explained that this would not be an Animal Control enforceable law as Animal Control Officers do not have the ability or authority to pull over motor vehicles. That such an Ordinance may already exists with possible enforcement of the existing laws covering Distractive Driving or possibly Failure to Drive in a Safe and Prudent Manner enforced by Police Officers. Mr. Klein explained that he would have conversation with City Attorney's and see if this would not be the case.

Old Business:

Board Discussion:

Would like to see Public Service Announcements for:

- **Next Board Meeting and Agenda**
- **Dogs in cars and destructive driving**
- **Animals in hot vehicles**
- **Licensing Laws and Fees**

Jeannette Vieg moved to adjourn the Animal Control Board Meeting and seconded.

Adjourned: 815pm