

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Paradise Community Center
4775 McLeod Drive, Town Board Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121
August 23, 2012
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: AMOROSO, ROXIE (RA)
CONNELL, MICHAEL (MC)
GIPAYA, MARY (MG)
LALOR, DIANA M. DVM (DL)
LAYNE, KAREN (KL)
GOTHARD, KAYLA (KG)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded

3. Approval of April 26 and June 28, 2012 Minutes

A motion to approve the April 26 and June 28, 2012 minutes was made and seconded.

4. Discussion on exotic animal standards, receive input; and take appropriate action.

KL - based on recent incidents the BCC took preliminary steps to address this issue. Some of them add to the work CCAC is already doing by requiring annual inspections. Now instead of going before the Planning Commission for approval, anyone wanting to have an exotic animal must go before the BCC for approval. The Board did ask that we hold a public hearing on this issue. CCAC and staff will develop standards on some definitions and in terms of housing, stacking cages and shade. GREG WALLEN (GW) we are prepared to present proposed standards after you receive public input. We can explain how some of the issues specifically addressed by the Board vis-à-vis the stacking issue will fit into the whole scenario. MC – how deep are you involved now? Do you have any connection with exotic animals like inspecting the property now or is this upcoming? GW – currently it is unlawful to house, own or possess an exotic animal in the unincorporated areas of Clark County without a special use permit. The use permit will now be obtained from the BCC. The process starts with an applicant going to the Comprehensive Planning Department where they check zoning standards, lot size, land use, various things of that nature. Part of that application process is offering the surrounding neighbors an opportunity to present input about an application. An individual would apply for a specific application. I want to house 2 adult chimpanzees or I want to house 14 tigers and 2 lions or whatever it might be. We have some large facilities currently permitted and some that are 1 person with 1 exotic animal. Once the application is finished, it is sent to CCAC for recommendations. CCAC does not have the authority to grant or deny a use permit for exotic animals. We are asked to look at the property, make recommendations and those written recommendations are included in the staff report prepared by Comprehensive Planning and submitted in writing to the BCC. The BCC will decide what they want to do. Any, all or none of the recommendations from a department whether it is CCAC, Fire, Public Works, whatever it might be, may or may not be included as part of the use permit. MC – would CCAC be interested in becoming more involved or have it remain as is. GW – that is a management decision that will probably occur at the Director level. KL – has the Planning Commission turned down a special use permit for exotics? GW – not in the years that I have been doing it. KL - My understanding is that the BCC was asking for the USDA to be involved where there are performing animals. Do you think that is actually going to happen? GW – you are not going to get any further input from the USDA. We could over a period of time obtain copies of the inspection reports that have been done at those facilities but in terms of asking for any formal input, comment or recommendations, they will not provide that, however, on an operational working level, I am personally acquainted with these inspectors. We communicate

on a regular basis in particular if there is a special event going on so I know what their thoughts are on a particular matter or what they may be looking at a particular facility or what concerns they may have. They will tell me verbally what occurred on a previous inspection so there will be input in a round about way but not directly from them. KL – could you also address the issue, because we have received a lot of comments from people indicating they want to ban exotics totally and I know there was discussion about that. Will you address that because you will be hearing to some extent what the issues are for us in CC in terms of trying to deal with that issue? GW – that is a legislative decision and not one that CCAC is in any position to make. I don't know whether the BCC is inclined to do that. There have been attempts to do that in other parts of the country. What has been more successful is greater restrictions because you have more regulatory control as opposed to legislative control. Most of the jurisdictions throughout the country seem to be going that way. KL – on Craig's List there was a discussion about the definition of an exotic animal and what is going to be regulated. Is that being looked at? I noticed on Craig's List as I looked at some of the exotics and I am amazed at size of some of the boa constrictors out there. It blows my mind when I see some of the stuff that is available for sale right now in Las Vegas. GW- currently in Title 30 of CC Code, a pet snake is one that is 6 ft or less. It doesn't describe any particular species or subspecies of snake as being exotic. It just says that anything over 6 ft in length is not considered a household pet so it requires a use permit. We go along with the federal definition of wild which is anything not normally kept as a household pet. Wild is different than exotic. Wild is something that is free in nature not confined, doesn't interact with humans; wild horses, big horn sheep, those types of indigenous species. Mountain lions are wild animals so we use the term exotic to capture the concept that there are certain naturally wild species brought into the human environment so a tiger, although in its natural habitat would be wild, is considered to be exotic. That is an administrative definition to explain things between wild vs. exotic.

JANICE RIDONDO (JR), Commissioners Collins' office, former Senator Warren Hardy is working with the Humane Society of the United States. They are putting together discussions and proposals that they will be bringing forward to the BCC for the legislature. You are aware the animals on the strip that have been here for decades classified as exotics are not going away. GW is right when you talk about prohibiting. Banning doesn't stop people from bringing them here. It doesn't stop the people who have them from keeping them. If we can regulate it and require them to get a use permit, we are much better off than trying to get rid of them. We have an issue with the Humane Society because they are black and white on this. They don't want them at all. From what happened back East, the chimp that bit the lady's face, these things go on every day and we don't stop people from driving their cars because there are accidents and people get killed. We are hopeful we are going to be able to have that discussion and I would be happy, once Warren has some language, to bring it to you to look at and we can see if we can have the AAC have a say in that. KL – that is probably going to be after this Committee is gone but we are willing to look at it. MC – exotics are part of our entertainment industry here and to ban it would be a fiasco but I don't think anyone on this Committee has the experience to regulate exotic animals. None of us have that background. Our input would probably be on CCAC inspections.

LINDA FASO (LF) – in this new legislative session part of the dialogue has been that zoos will be exempt from any of this and the Strip and entertainers are not going to be touched. We are more concerned with the animals stuck in backyards as pets. There will be a lot of discussion and hopefully we can all come to an agreement. USDA, by law, only has to inspect once a year any facility that is licensed with an exhibitor's permit. If there are problems, they write them up and then say we will be back in 30 days, 60 days and give you an opportunity to change whatever the problem is. I have inspection reports going back 20 years. I keep track of all the exhibitors. I keep track of people in Pahrump. I see time and time again where an inspector has pointed out a problem, as GW can verify, that almost doesn't get fixed because there are no consequences. It is paperwork. They are in violation and somewhere down the road they might be fined. Regulation is just a buzzword. There are only 120 inspectors in the whole country to oversee puppy mills, experiment labs, exotic animals and our meat. They don't have the manpower, the time or the money. That is the reality. It sounds nice to say we can have more regulation but in reality that is not going to happen. I have worked on exotic problems for the last 25 years in our valley. It has not gotten better; it has gotten worse. We tried to pass an exotic ordinance 11 years ago but it went nowhere. Why do we have to wait for a tragedy to happen before something is finally done? I am relieved that the County is now willing to do something to protect our community and the animals. There are numerous incidents across the country where privately owned exotic animals have escaped their cages and attacked people and other animals. As

a result, children and adults have been mauled by tigers, bitten by primates and asphyxiated by snakes. Two leopards in the NW part of our valley got loose a couple years ago just 2 miles from an elementary school. A pet mountain lion with a pink harness got on a school bus in the Hollywood/Charleston area. KL – submit your paperwork and it will become part of the record.

STACIA NEUMAN (SN) – was here 11 years ago when we introduced an ordinance for exotics in CC. It is hard to regulate because we don't know where they are and it is hard for CCAC to do their job or even enforce something if they are not permitted and that is going to be a major issue. Back in 2001 we had all we can handle in setting up guidelines and those guidelines were just common sense; food, water, cage size. The animal had to be able to stand up on its hind legs and to be able to turn around. That was a fight in itself. Most of the exotic animals we are talking about are going to be mountain lions, bobcats, servals, things of that nature. After they get out of the cute, little cuddly stage, they normally end up spending their whole life in dog cages. Another favorite one is laundry rooms. I have been around quite a while and I have experienced just how fast things can happen. I witnessed a serval, it looks like a small cheetah weighing 30 to 40 lbs., shred a 5-month-old dog within seconds all the way to its torso and bone was exposed. These are the animals we are talking about and there is a distinction between entertainment animals and privately owned animals. We are talking about privately owned exotic animals. They should be banned. They don't really know what they are getting themselves into. They see this cute animal; they buy it as a baby and now they have these huge out of control animals. This includes capuchin monkeys too. There was a mountain lion that got on a school bus. I was also around when the bobcat got out at the Lakes. Nobody even knew he was chained by his throat in a garage 24/7, 365 days a year. One day he got loose and he ended up 3 doors down. The Lakes, if you can imagine that, Ft. Apache and Sahara. We have a major issue. Nobody is going to know where they are unless something happens and you only hear about it when something horrible happens, like CJ and Buddy. Otherwise, these animals are going to escape all the time. There were servals in a gated community of high priced homes and they escape there too. It is a public safety issue. We need to step up to the plate and take responsibility and ban privately owned exotics.

SANDY NOFFSINGER (SAN) - the pet mountain lion in a pink harness got on a school bus in the Charleston/Hollywood area with the driver sitting there in disbelief. The kids had already gotten off the bus and the mountain lion was captured. Imagine what could have happened if the kids had still been on the bus. Many other incidents have happened here, some documented but most not. LF and I were walking in a gated community several years ago at night and come up on CCAC and our security with large floodlights. They were looking for 2 servals that had escaped from their cages. I later learned that a well-known realtor who lived over the wall from me owned them and they had gotten out before. Some of my neighbors and I never knew they were there. Exotic animals, many of which are endangered species, require knowledgeable care. Their presence in residential neighborhoods is a threat to owners, neighbors and the animals themselves. Buddy had to be killed in the street for the world to see to finally bring this insanity to a head. With our fast growing community and other states enacting stronger laws, including banning the ownership of exotics, more and more people will be moving here with their animals in tow. Some have already done so. We are 1 of 6 states in the country with no exotic ordinance of any kind. With all the documented accidents, maulings, escapes and deaths attributed to the explosion of exotic animals around the country, measures must be in place for public safety. We have had our share of mishaps with exotics and can no longer bury our heads in the sand. We must do whatever is necessary to prevent more tragedies. With so many exotic animals in private hands, these incidents will continue to happen. Exotic animals are dangerous. Given the life these animals are forced to endure, it is no surprise they rebel and exhibit their natural instincts to the detriment of the community. These animals are time bombs waiting to explode. It is unknown how many undocumented and unregulated wild animals are here. Owners of exotics should have to have the proper liability insurance in place to cover any problems their animals cause so as not to fall on the shoulders of the taxpayers, city, county or state. How much did the escape of Buddy and CJ cost? Who will end up paying for that?

GW – we do track the exotic animals in the county. We maintain a list. We have about 24 on that list. Of course, that is not all of them. There are many I am sure we do not know about but we do track and maintain information about exotic animal keepers even though we are not required to. Even though we do not have any legislative authority to do so, we periodically go out and visit these facilities to do an inventory. The reporting system for identifying these animals has improved because neighbors are beginning to see what is going on in their community

and report it. Just as we would hear about a dog with no water or an animal with no shade in the backyard, neighbors are beginning to report to us that there is somebody with a small monkey or a porcupine looking thing. They don't know what it is but they know it is not a dog or a cat. There is the reporting information, there is the tracking system we have in place, the proposed exotic animal ordinance has already been written and it does have significant standards of housing and care with specific language such as certain animals would need 9 gauge chain link or 6 gauge chain link or reinforced steel welded wire or that particular species of animal would require 350 square feet. We do have some pretty specific information. The proposed ordinance does require liability insurance be maintained at various levels depending on the type of animal. It has seizure authority for CCAC to impound not only animals but property as well. In terms of enforcement, if there were amendments made to Title 10, whether it is to add an entirely brand new exotic animal ordinance or just to tweak a few things here and there, it would be codified as a criminal misdemeanor. If did an inspection and found a violation, there is a citation right on the spot. There are no reports, no see you in 30 days. It is a criminal citation right on the spot. Go tell your story to the judge. Right now, there is no formal mechanism to do any of that.

MG – is it mostly backyard types or entertainers on the list you have. GW – they are all in people's yards. MG – are they legitimate "entertainers" with shows on the strip. GW – we have all the people with USDA licenses or Fish and Wildlife permits but we have a lot of folks with capuchin monkeys, a couple servals, or things of that nature and some of them may be professionals that are not working right now so they sit around in the backyard for a long time. We don't differentiate between the backyard scenarios. The escape of Buddy and CJ was from a USDA licensed facility. We are not talking about a private person that was unregulated which you might typically refer to as the backyard animals. This was a federally licensed facility. Even the place in Ohio where he turned all the animals loose and then turned the gun on himself was a federally licensed facility. The federal license should not be thought of as approval. MC – are they required to carry liability insurance? GW – not from the USDA. MC – dog handlers who teach people to take their dog in the ring carry a minimum of a million dollar liability policy. The Kennel Club requires it. KL – I was concerned when I looked at the caging for CJ. I know you are concerned from the public safety standpoint about the gauge of the steel. I looked at that and I was appalled from the standpoint of humaneness. I did not see that much shade for that animal. When you have metal cages outside and it is 110°, it doesn't make sense to me that there aren't shade requirements. I know the BCC asked for this but we really have to look at some of those humane issues as well. I would hope that as this gets done those issues are considered. I believe they talked about stacking and shade and I hope that when this is looked at that those issues be considered. I have a problem with having these animals sitting out in the backyard in this big metal cage and it is 112° outside. They may be used to it, it is their environment but I don't know that it makes it all that humane. I know what USDA does in terms of dog issues and the licenses they provide for some of these horrible situations so I am not impressed when someone tells me that the USDA has approved it. I hope the County will have standards if we are going to regulate this and that we do better than the USDA. If we can't ban it, let's make sure the standards we establish meet a better quality than what the USDA approved for that chimpanzee. GW was part of the Committee in 2000 that worked on the Exotic Animal Ordinance and I am very proud of it. KL – my understanding of what we were supposed to do tonight was to hear comments from the public and turn it back over to staff and then have them come back to us with a proposal. GW is not sure what the BCC is asking of the Committee other than to receive public input and to make a recommendation back to them with what it is you heard from the public and how far you would like to take this. We know the BCC has required additional shade, no stacking of cages, the owner of the animal must also be the owner of the property when applying for a use permit, there has to be a letter of intent that goes along with the application. In other words why do you want these exotic animals and I believe that is all. The ordinance we had proposed and written includes things like liability insurance, specific housing requirements, space requirements, psychological well being for primates, a written program of veterinary care with a licensed veterinarian specialized in the practice of the species they will be housing, an emergency escape contingency plan, emergency evacuation procedures, that we have these written documents in place, that they are reviewed and acted upon, that emergency notices be posted conspicuously on the property so that law enforcement charging in their for some unrelated issue doesn't walk into a cage full of lions.

RA – is there some sort of amnesty nationally or in our community where people can get rid of these animals by giving them to places where they can live out the rest of their lives. GW – that is what happened with CJ. CJ is now at a sanctuary in Oregon and that was voluntary. In terms of amnesty if someone gets caught and they get a

citation, that is always an option. If you no longer have the animal, the citation is meaningless. There are also prohibitions federally about moving animals in interstate commerce. You cannot move animals across state lines to give away, buy, sell, trade. If you have an animal in NV, it stays in NV unless you have a federal permit, not from the USDA, but from US Fish and Wildlife Services to move that animal across state lines and there has to be a specific reason. Also since about 1975 it has been illegal to import primates into the US except for 3 or 4 specific purposes. We now know that based upon a study that was done in Yerkes Primate Center down in Emory University that all of the primates in captivity today are basically the offspring of those that originally arrived or those that are subsequently arriving for legitimate purposes and being bred and sold into the pet trade. MG – since we already have an ordinance that they have taken time and lots of man-hours maybe we can revisit that as part of the decision making process. KL – my suggestion would be to build on what MG said. Send it back to staff who are looking for a proposal whether it is the current one or the current one plus the changes that we discussed tonight and also talked about by the BCC that was more shade and no stacking if that is not included in that ordinance and bring something back to this Committee so we can have a public hearing on that particular ordinance. I went back through some of those hearings and there were a lot of hearings on that ordinance when it came out but I certainly think we have a good base. We should probably have staff take a look at that and try to build from there as opposed to starting from square one. DL knows there are a number of exotic animals out there and was wondering if some of those animals are going to be grandfathered in or if any assistance will be given to people who already have the animals and can't meet the updated requirements. GW believes the ordinance we proposed did have some form of grandfather clause. Even if we grandfathered them in, we would expect over time for them to comply with the changes. KL would like to see the ordinance brought back to the Committee. RA motions to have this go back to staff and have them amend the existing ordinance to include issues that have been addressed tonight. Motion seconded, all agreed. KL would like an Agenda item at the next meeting.

CHRISTINA CORDOVA – the real issue is there is no amnesty. These people cannot get rid of these animals when they get to a point where they can't take care of them anymore. There is nothing. I worked at Lake Mead National Recreation Area as a Ranger and we in the field see alligators. They get these little alligators and they have no options. That is the real issue. There needs to be something put into place that people can get rid of these animals when they can't take care of them any more. That's why they have cages stacked in the backyard. We really need to talk about how these people can get rid of these animals when they can no longer take care of them so there is amnesty for the first time but write down their information telling them if it happens again a citation will be written.

5. Receive a report from the Educational subcommittee; and take appropriate action.

RA – Read her report into the record and provided a copy. KL appreciates all the work RA has done and hopes we can get the student members to do more with the videos, slogan and the logo. Those are great ideas. We are going to be talking about a strategic plan for animal overpopulation and I think we need to move what you have done here into that strategic plan.

6. Receive a report from the Humane/Rescue Group subcommittee; and take appropriate action.

KL put copies in the back. We want to present a plan to the BCC that says this is how we are going to deal with the overpopulation problem in CC. Would like the Committee to vote on this proposal at the next meeting so we can get comment on what has been presented. We are running out of time for this year. Our term is almost over so we need to do this quickly. DL – we are still working on our strategic plan and are getting ready to submit this to the BCC for review if the Committee approves. We have 4 main parts for increasing proactive measures to reduce number of animals going into the shelter. We are focusing mostly on going into the shelter rather than getting out of the shelter because we don't want to speak for the shelter. We want to increase enforcement efforts; expand s/n resources coordinating with all interested parties; adopt a more comprehensive program, work with rescue groups to reduce the number of animals going into the shelter and expand public outreach efforts. RA's part would be added into expand public outreach efforts. With increasing enforcement efforts we would like to increase citations issued for animals not s/n by 5% per year; increase citations for those breeding animals with no permit 5% per year. We want to increase RTOs by 10%. Ensure that all dog-related events taking place in CC require that animals

participating be s/n or have a breeder permit and be vaccinated. We want to increase public outreach efforts for education based on responsible pet ownership. We have an outline of what a responsible pet owner entails. Increase data currently available so we can identify areas in CC where different key activities are taking place - areas in CC where there is a high shelter owned animal turn in; high cruelty areas and areas where there are a high number of feral cats. To expand s/n resources coordinating with all interested parties, the key thing was putting more monetary resources toward s/n and requiring rescue groups to microchip. To adopt a more comprehensive program, work with rescue groups to reduce the number of animals going into the shelter, we will microchip. We are working on a gold standard and will be revisiting this in the next subcommittee meeting. The gold standard is something all of the people in the subcommittee agree to in terms of what each group agrees to. We have so many groups trying to reach a common ground. All groups agreed to microchip and vaccinate their animals. Will basically agree, if they can, to take back any animals they adopted out that owners can no longer keep. There are a number of different things on the gold standard that we are pretty proud of. We have 13 plus groups coming together and people are really working together to create this. Expand public outreach efforts – it is very important to publicize what we are doing and the education group is going to be a key part of that. DL motions to add the strategic plan to the next agenda to have a public hearing. All agreed.

JANA WRIGHT (JW) Commissioner G's staff – this is a nice outline. Will you be adding meat and potatoes on what, for instance, increase enforcement efforts, increase citations for animals not s/n by 5%, are you going to have what we are doing now, what we want to do? KL is hoping to do that before the next meeting. Right now we are doing a basic outline to make sure everyone is in agreement with what is being proposed.

7. Hear the appeal of Vicious Animal Declaration by Peter Jovetic for Cane, a male brindle Boxer and Mala, a female tan Boxer, 4210 Candleberry Court, Las Vegas, NV; and take appropriate action

GW – you have a copy of all relevant documents in your packets, including photos, witness statements and relevant medical records. The owner of the victim dog is present as is the owner of the offending animal and the 2 witnesses whose statements you have are also present. The dogs are currently confined at the shelter and will remain there pending adjudication. The owner of the animal has already received information relevant to any necessary appeal and prior to this meeting all appropriate notices have been delivered. This case differs from others that you have seen in that the victim dog did not die. It is our contention that the animal sustained substantial bodily harm as defined in the NRS listed below.

NRS 0.060 “Substantial bodily harm” defined. Unless the context otherwise requires, “substantial bodily harm” means:

1. Bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ; or

2. Prolonged physical pain.

(Added to NRS by 1985, 221)

Please take that into consideration while reviewing this case. The officer who handled this case will give you an overview. ACO DANIELLE HARNEY (DH) has been with CCAC for 6 years, holds a current license as a vet technician and a Master's degree in animal science. I responded to a call from Park Police (PP) of 2 dogs RAL that had carried off a woman's small dog. The owner was present along with some of the neighbors. While enroute to the call, PP came on the radio stating they believed the victim dog was dead. When I arrived I met with the dog owner and a witness and found the victim dog on the sidewalk bleeding profusely. It was alive and the suspect dogs were gone from the scene. I was told they ran further down the block and was given a description of the vehicle that followed them. I told the owner my primary concern at this point was to get assistance for her dog as it appeared to need immediate medical attention. I took the dog to the closest veterinary hospital which was Flamingo Animal Hospital. After leaving the dog at the clinic, I returned to the scene where I met with a PP officer who was able to run the plate of the vehicle to locate the suspect's address. Another ACO and I arrived at the suspect's house. They had 4 dogs on property, 2 Yorkies and 2 Boxers. The Boxers were in the backyard when we arrived. The gate appeared secure and I asked the owners if they were aware their dogs had gotten out. He told me his dogs were inside all morning. They allowed me in the house to see the dogs. The boxers were excited, panting heavily with their tongues hanging out. Did not seem to have been resting. He told me the gate was secure and the dogs had not gotten out. The other ACO and I went back to our vehicles and checked the history on this address.

We had been there before for excess dogs. They had already been warned about having more than 3 dogs and some of the dogs were intact. I cited him for violations not having to do with this case. I obtained his id and advised that at a future date we may deem his dogs dangerous or vicious depending upon the documents we received. I also spoke on the phone with one of the witnesses and asked him to describe the animals he saw in the attack. The dogs he described matched the description of the dogs in the backyard. I gave witness statements to the owner of the victim dog as well as the owner of the boxers. KL – owner said he had not left the house. You obtained the information because his vehicle was seen looking for the dogs. DH did not see the vehicle at the time I took the injured dog to the vet. When I arrived at his home, that vehicle was parked in the driveway. The witness gave me the description and license plate of the vehicle. RA – did they have a way into the backyard. DH - he has a double gate on the property that did appear secure when I arrived.

MIA LIPSCHUTZ (ML) lives opposite Laurelwood Park where she regularly walks her dogs. On that morning I was walking my dogs and 2 dogs approached my 3 dogs and me. Two of them are smaller than the one they grabbed. I immediately screamed. I take a small cart to secure my dogs, as it is hard to walk all 3 together. These 2 dogs looked right at my face and almost lunged at me. Instead they took my little dog, snapped the leash and took off running like he was a turkey in their mouth. They ran down the street, passing a neighbor's house that was outside who saw the whole thing. He couldn't get them to stop or release my dog. They ran almost to the end of the block, released him and tried to pull his head off. They pulled his eye out, ripped his legs open and just threw him on the street. By the time I got there, he was unconscious. We thought he was dead. These dogs have been seen roaming the neighborhood. Small children live on the street. I have a petition with over 60 names from people in the neighborhood that do not want these dogs back here. The trauma is still with me. My dog cannot walk on his back legs. KL – we agree this must have been a horrendous situation. We would like to concentrate on what you saw that day, what happened and the extent of your dog's injuries. ML saw them come right up to me. My dog is kept on 2 leashes, 8 ft distance. They snapped the leash and were about to lunge at me when I started screaming for help. I had my head down in the cart where I had the 2 smaller dogs. They grabbed my dog and left the park with him in their mouth. One of them was jerking him around like a turkey and by the time they released him, he was all lacerated. KL – were you contacted by the witnesses? ML – no the witnesses were there. The dogs ran past their house and he told his son to go after them with a stick because they wouldn't release my dog. They finally did. We saw this guy driving around looking for them and he sent his son to follow the car. KL – did you see the car? ML – yes. KL – you saw the car driving around. Was this before or after you found your dog? ML – after when we were on the street. KL – did you go with the ACO to the vet? ML – no I had my 2 other dogs with me. The ACO took my dog to the animal hospital. I stayed and talked to my neighbors a minute and then went home. She came back to see me and I went to the animal hospital to see my dog. We were ready to put him down because the injuries were so severe. RA – were both dogs involved? ML – they were playing tug of war with my dog right in front of me. KL – in looking through the vet's notes, I understand your dog was there for a couple days going through all these surgeries. How is your dog now? ML – he was only there 2 days and then I brought him to my vet. My vet had me bring him every day to check for fluids so he stayed there every day for a week and I took him home at night. They said he would gain maybe 80% on his back leg. His vision is good but weak. They had to cut his eyelashes when they sewed his eye back in. He had numerous stitches and drains in him. He walks with a limp and struggles with a lot of pain. He was on pain meds and antibiotics for 10 days. KL – will the limp eventually resolve itself? ML – no it is permanent. They actually ripped his leg apart. His leg was stapled back together. I have pictures that may be larger than what you have.

GENE LEWIS (GL) lives about 100 feet from the park. I was out in the front yard, heard a commotion, looked over and saw 3 dogs come out of the park, 1 was between the mouths of the other 2. As they exited the park someone was yelling at the dogs and coming after them. The tan dog let go of the little dog and started running down the middle of the road. I ran out to the street and the brindle dog still had the small dog in its mouth, running down the sidewalk when I went out to the street. My intention was to head it off at the sidewalk. My son is younger than me and a lot faster so he passed me up and when he reached for the brindle dog holding the little dog in its mouth, it dropped the dog and took off. The tan dog was still running down the center of the street looking back and the other dog ran up the street to join it. As I was watching the dogs run down the street, a very distinctive SUV, a Honda Ridgeline, turned around in the intersection and the 2 dogs went toward the SUV and around the corner. That is how we figured out those dogs followed that vehicle. We ended up going around the

corner, finding that vehicle and gave the information to the PP. The dog had stopped breathing so I took the collar off and once it was off, it started breathing again.

ANDREW LEWIS (AL) was there that morning. We were standing out front. My dad noticed a commotion at the park first and then it came to my attention. By the time I looked over and saw the dogs, I saw the tan one running down the center of the street and the brindle one with Mia's dog in its mouth running on the sidewalk on the opposite side of our house. I saw my dad going after that dog and I started running after the brindle dog as well. I realized he couldn't catch up to him and as I went to reach for the brindle's nape to grab hold of it, it dropped Mia's dog and took off down the street. At that point I saw the dog lying on the sidewalk. I was convinced that dog was dead. Its left eye was bulging out I could see all the blood near his leg. The tan dog continued to run down the street. By the time they were at the end of the street, I glanced down and noticed a Burgundy Honda Ridgeline was stopped at the intersection of Candleberry and Newcastle. My dad asked me to get the license plate number for PP. KL – you only saw the brindle with the dog in its mouth. AL – by the time I saw them they were already coming down the street. I didn't see them when they were at the park.

PETER JOVETIC (PJ) is the owner of the Boxers. I walk my dogs in the park every morning from 7 to 8/8:30. That day I was walking them around 8 to 8:30, I brought them home, went to my other house to move some furniture and then came home. An officer came to my door. I was outside doing work. She asked me if my dogs were in the house. She checked the yard, pulled the gate and made sure everything was safe. She told me it was possible that my dogs attacked Mia's dog. I had workers in the house from 7:30 and I had friends in the house preparing for a birthday celebration. I am really sorry but I know when I came home, my dogs were home. They are not dangerous. I have pictures; they are friendly. They like to jump but they are not dangerous. They just want to play. KL – have the dogs ever gotten out before? PJ – when we moved in about 3 months ago but they just run in circles, they don't go anywhere else. They are scared to go anywhere else. RA – the car they described, is that yours? PJ – yes. RA – when you were driving it home, you didn't see any dogs outside? PJ – no. When I came home, the dogs were inside playing with my friends. Nobody saw them outside. I don't know how they can open the gate. It is impossible because it is latched. They cannot jump the gate. RA – you said you had people working at your home while you were gone. PJ – yes. RA – could they have had the door open? PJ doesn't think so because they were working on drywall. They have to be fast working with plaster so if they leave it for 5 or 10 minutes, it would have dried. KL – you are saying you don't believe your dogs are the ones who did this. PJ – I don't believe it. I can show you the pictures. They grew up with 2 Yorkies. My brother has a German Shepherd; my friend has Yorkies. They always play together. KL – prior to this back in March, you were advised your animals needed to be sterilized between the time that happened and this happened. PJ – that happened at couple of days before and I sterilized one. I did not have a chance to sterilize the other one. KL – you are saying it is a couple days before. PJ – yes, 3 or 4 days. KL – the record says it happened in March. PJ – maybe 2 weeks. KL – the record shows it happened in March. This incident happened in June. Did you offer to help the woman with the medical bills? PJ – nobody came to my door until the officer came. Nobody told me anything. DL – have you reached out to the victim? PJ – no, I don't even know her address. MG – would you be willing to pay restitution to the owner for her veterinary bills? DL – did you have any other family members home when you were out moving the furniture. PJ – they came around 9 or 9:30.

SASHA KOSTIC (????) (SK) was at the house that day and the male dog was in the house with me around 10:45 lying next to me. There was construction in the house. I come to his house pretty much every day. I saw other dogs that looked the same as his dogs in the neighborhood and I can tell you there are about 4 or 5 dogs that look the same as his dogs. I can probably tell you where the dogs live. Two of them live southwest of the park and one was going down the street crossing the school. They are pretty much there every day. The male dog was next to me. I was on vacation before, I came on July 24 to his house and I was playing with the dogs, 10:40/10:45.

RA – he says he walks his dog at 7 in the morning. Have you seen his dogs before? ML – yes. GL has only seen them one time.

MILIJANA KANDIC (MK) is PJ's fiancé. That morning the dogs were in the house. I woke up about 8:45. It was my son's birthday and we started preparing the lunch. I have letters here from old friends and pictures of the

boxers with little dogs and a little kid and a letter from the vet. They never had a problem with them and they are not aggressive. I will give you the letters and the pictures.

ILAYA JOVETIC (IJ) is PJ's brother. I was in the house from 9 am to 11:30 am. Both dogs were there. They are not dangerous dogs.

SUSAN TALIAFERRO (ST) is a friend of PJ and MK read a letter she wrote into the record.

MC – when you confronted the dogs at the home the first time you saw them there, was there any blood on the muzzles, the face or anywhere? DH – there was no blood that I could see tracked directly in front of their house. At the time they were redoing their front yard so it was all torn up. There was no blood on the walkway or on any of the dogs' muzzles. MC – did it appear as though the face area might have been washed? DH – the dogs were panting heavily and appeared to have gotten lots of water to drink. Boxers are known for their slobber so they were slobbering but not to excess nor were they bloody. The only people that I saw on property that day were PJ and MK.

GW – we did photo identification with the victim dog owner prior to this hearing. KL – the witness identified the dogs in the picture as the dogs he saw and also identified the white face of the brindle. KG – were there any other suspect dogs in the neighborhood? DH – the other officer that stayed on scene patrolled the area while I took the injured dog to the vet. We did not find any dogs RAL in the area. MC – based on what I heard from the owner, the witnesses and the victim, there is little to no doubt in my mind that these are the dogs that committed the offense and recommends we rule as such. DL seconds the motion. MG is unsure about the tan boxer They said the brindle dog had it in his mouth running up the street. KL – the victim owner indicated they both took the dog and when the first witness saw them they still had the dog. The second witness states the brindle boxer had the dog. MG – so the brindle had the dog pretty much the whole time. DL – they were playing tug of war with the dog and then the brindle had it alone for a little while. KL motions to uphold the vicious. Motion was seconded with all in favor. GW – for the record the animals' owner has received written information about their right to appeal and the steps they need to take to proceed after this hearing and they will receive a written letter within 3 business days following this hearing.

8. Discuss emerging issues and information among Advisory Committee Members; and take appropriate action.

MG – we will be having an Equestrian Rescue Group Subcommittee meeting September 5, 2012 at the Clark County Government Center, Pueblo Room at 6:30 pm to develop a plan to rescue horses.

9. Discuss moving the location of Animal Advisory Committee meetings

KL – suggestion was made to move the meetings to the Clark County Government Center. The Government Center is more secure. RA would like to see that happen. It is a more central location and we may have greater attendance being in a central location. KG agrees to move it. MC asks about the equipment. GW is sure they have AV equipment at the Government Center. DL strongly agrees. MG motions to move meeting to the Government Center. Motion seconded. All approved.

10. Comments by the General Public

None

11. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Clark County Government Center, Commission Chambers.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm