



Community Services Advisory Commission
October 10, 2023
Minutes

Commission Members: Present: Rex Pryor, Vicki Von Sadovszky, Vivek Arunachalam, Elizabeth McClain, Jessica Tobias

Absent: Steve Dritz, Hong Qiu

Staff Members Present: Nick Tabernik, Deputy Chief of Police
Emily Goliver, Management Analyst

1. Call to Order

Mr. Pryor established a quorum was present and called the Community Services Advisory Commission meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present were Mr. Arunachalam, Ms. McClain, Mr. Pryor, Ms. Tobias and Ms. Von Sadovszky.

Mr. Dritz and Ms. Qiu were absent.

3. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September 12, 2023 meeting were distributed for review via email. Mr. Pryor asked if anyone had any changes to the meeting minutes. There were no changes to the meeting minutes. Ms. Von Sadovszky moved to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Arunachalam seconded.

Vote on the motion: Mr. Arunachalam, yes; Ms. McClain, yes; Mr. Pryor, yes; Ms. Tobias, yes; and Ms. Von Sadovszky, yes.

The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Outdoor Feed Ordinance– Emily Goliver, Management Analyst

Mr. Pryor turned the meeting over to Ms. Goliver to discuss the Outdoor Feed Ordinance.

Ms. Goliver introduced Deputy Chief Tabernik who is joining Ms. Goliver this evening on the topic of deer management options that are available and to answer any questions that the commission might have.

Ms. Goliver said the topic of deer management has been an ongoing conversation for the past two years. In February 2022 Nature Education Coordinator Barbara Ray presented the City's wildlife management program as a whole. Ms. Goliver then provided some updates specific to deer management in February 2023. At that time Ms. Goliver provided information that the City would be working with students at The Ohio State University on a herd population assessment. In June, staff returned to the Committee to report the results of the herd population assessment that was conducted. The survey team determined that there are approximately 50-85 deer per square mile in Dublin. The City also conducted a community-wide survey at the end of May that indicated that the resident's attitude towards the deer population and potential deer management is mixed. Resident's attitudes towards the deer population and deer management was divided nearly 50/50. Ms. Goliver also stated that, while that report was a great assessment, it is not the only way the City can assess the deer population. The City plans to do another type of assessment later this year or early next year.

Ms. Goliver provided a summary of lethal and non-lethal options for deer management. This commission then requested that staff draft a No Feed Ordinance.

Ms. Goliver wanted to provide a follow-up to one item of discussion from the September meeting. Ms. Goliver talked to the Gahanna Chief of Police to follow up on some of the questions the commission had regarding their Urban Bow Hunting Program that was in place. Ms. Goliver misspoke at the last meeting. Gahanna's program has been out of commission for approximately four years. Chief Spence said that was one of the first things he wanted to tackle when he became Chief because he was not comfortable with the program. Within about two years of his tenure, the program was canceled. Ms. Goliver talked to Chief Spence about some of the restrictions that were in place with the program as active. Chief Spence did not write the policy and was not necessarily in agreement with all of it. Gahanna's policy did not have a distance requirement in place but did recommend that it should be a requirement that should be added for any municipality that plans to have this type of program.

Ms. Goliver said Chief Spence shared one of the instances that helped lead to the elimination of this program. A resident was bow-hunting into a wooded area from his backyard in coordination and legally with this program, struck a deer in his backyard. The injured deer walked into a neighboring yard and vocally and physically suffered within the sight of small children. It was a very unfortunate circumstance, even though everything was perfectly legal that took place. This helped the community get on board with eliminating the program. Gahanna had two employees that handled the majority of the work, one being the Chief of Police. The largest burden was the background checks that were required to provide a permit for an individual. Gahanna only charged \$5 for this permit so there was no cost recovery for this program based on staff time. There was

also a hidden fee that the Gahanna Police Chief became aware of, which was the additional insurance required for the City to have this type of program.

Ms. Goliver again provided a brief summary of some of the management tactics that have been implemented in other municipalities.

Lethal options:

- Urban bow-hunting Program- similar to what was discussed with Gahanna
- Sharpshooting Program – professionally hired shooters for targeted elimination
- The police department had safety concerns with both lethal options. It was still unclear where a sharpshooting program would even be possible, given the restrictions on location.
- Commission agreed that the two lethal programs were not options at this point

Non-Lethal options:

- Contraceptives (ODNR only permits when coupled with a lethal option)
- Relocation (not permitted by ODNR)
- No Feed Ordinance (recommendation made by Commission)

Ms. Goliver said between the last meeting and this meeting, staff drafted an Outdoor Feed Ordinance rather than a No Feed Ordinance. An outdoor feed ordinance prevents staff and the commission from having to continually bring this topic back when there is an increase to the population of a specific animal. It's also just a general best practice not to feed any wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, deer, etc. The Outdoor Feed Ordinance would cover all bases of wild animals and animals running at large. Ms. Goliver also mentioned that Chapter 96.17 of the City's Codified Ordinance prohibits feeding animals in our parks but does not mention private property, so this Ordinance will restrict feeding on private property. Feeding wildlife can lead to a higher concentration of wildlife in the specific area they are fed because they learn where the food source is available. Wildlife can also become more comfortable with people and being closer to homes, so it can also desensitize them. Ms. Goliver said this does not refer to residents feeding wild birds. The City wants to encourage residents to feed wild birds with feeders. If feeders are not well kept or higher up, they can lead to feeding other wild animals unintentionally.

Ms. Goliver continued with information on a public education campaign. Ms. Goliver shared Dublin's Backyard video with Barbara Ray, Nature Education Coordinator. On October 18, the City will be hosting a Homeowner's Association and Civic Association leadership meeting that the City does bi-annually. The focus of that meeting will be topics of public safety, public service and nature education. Ms. Goliver also shared some other forms of the public education campaign such as the FAQ document and the Living with Wildlife documents and how to access them on the City's website.

Ms. Goliver provided the draft language for the commission to review and comment on.

A) Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

(1) RUNNING AT LARGE. An animal off its owner's premises, without a leash, and without a person to control the animal.

(2) WILD ANIMAL. An animal not legally confined or held by private ownership legally acquired and shall include, but not be limited to, feral cats, squirrels, chipmunks, ground hogs, raccoons, skunks, waterfowl, opossums, muskrats, deer, foxes, black bears, wild turkey, bobcats, and coyotes.

(3) FEED OR FEEDING. The act of or the furnishing of food or other sustenance.

(B) No person shall feed, cause to be fed or provide food for animals running at large or wild on any private or public property within the boundaries of the city. The feeding of one's own animal(s) or wild birds on their premises shall be the exception so long as the feed does not attract animals running at large or wild from public property, public ways or private property not owned by the feeding person.

(C) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

Ms. Goliver said that staff is requesting a CSAC recommendation to the City Council to amend the City's Code to include a prohibition on outdoor feeding of wild animals or animals running at large.

Ms. Von Sadovsky asked if anyone can file a report on the GoDublin app and if so, what happens once the report is filed.

Ms. Goliver replied that the report from GoDublin will go to the City's code enforcement staff. Staff will go out and inspect the property and talk to the homeowner. They will then review and determine if and what the violation is. Generally, the practice is to inform the resident that code exists. In some cases, people don't realize there is a code, so they don't know they are violating it. That would be the intent in this case, as well.

Ms. Tobias said the City of Worthington's Ordinance is much more specific regarding prohibitions, such as prohibiting a bird feeder with five feet of the ground. Ms. Tobias asked what the benefit is for having more general language in Dublin's Ordinance.

Ms. Goliver said there are really two reasons. First, when the City creates an Ordinance, staff wants to make sure that Ordinances are similar to ones that the City already has in place. This one is comparable to our current waterfowl ordinance but also with other outdoor feed ordinances around the state. Also, with more general language it covers a lot broader area and allows for more interpretation.

Mr. Pryor asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he asked if there was a motion to amend the City's Code to include a prohibition on outdoor feeding of wild animals or animals running at large. Ms. Tobias made a motion and Mr. Arunachalam seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: Mr. Arunachalam, yes; Ms. McClain, yes; Mr. Pryor, yes; Ms. Tobias, yes; and Ms. Von Sadovszky, yes.

The motion to amend the City's Code to include a prohibition on outdoor feeding of wild animals or animals running at large was unanimously approved.

6. Other Items of Interest

Mr. Pryor asked if there were any other items of interest to be discussed.

Ms. Goliver just wanted to remind commission members to complete any outstanding training required for boards and commission members. If anyone is having issues with trying to complete the training, please reach out to Ms. Goliver and she will connect the individuals with the City's Human Resource Department.

7. Next meeting: November 14, 2023

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

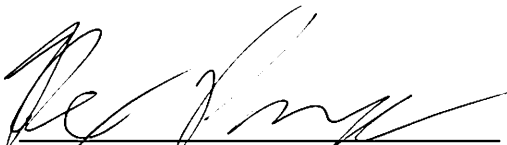
8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Marja Keplar, Administrative Support III



Rex Pryor, Commission Chair

Attachments: None