



ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

MINUTES

October 19, 2023

The City of Knoxville Animal Control Board considered the following permit applications and topics for discussion at their October 19, 2023 meeting at 3:30 pm in the Young-Williams Animal Center conference room, 3201 Division Street, Knoxville, Tennessee.

This meeting and all communications between the Board members is subject to the provisions of the Tennessee Open Meetings Act, Tenn. Code. Ann. § 9-44-101, et seq.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Janet Testerman called the meeting to order at 3:40pm.

ROLL CALL

Board members present were Lisa Skinner, Ashley Ramos, Sarah Glass, Dr. Lisa Chassy, Janet Testerman,

Absent: Dr. Heidi Wyrosdick, Deputy Chief David Powell

PERMITS REVIEWED

- 1) #892 Kaylee Huskey, 309 Ambrose St., applied for a hen permit. Sarah Glass made a motion to approve the minutes, Dr. Lisa Chassy seconded. Unanimous **APPROVAL**.
- 2) #890 Governor's Conference, Humane Society of TN Valley, Convention Center Sarah Glass, motioned to approve, Ashley seconded. Unanimous **APPROVAL**.
- 3) #888 Jason Clabough 608 W. Scott Ave. pig permit. Sarah Glass motioned to approve, Ashley seconded. Unanimous **APPROVAL**.
- 4) #889 Cynthia Mcilvaine, 1967 Maplewood Dr. goat grazing. Lisa Skinner motioned to approve, Dr. Lisa Chassy seconded. Unanimous **APPROVAL**.
- 5) #891 Mark Parker, 121 E. Scott Ave. hen permit. Dr. Chassy motioned to approve pending final documentation verifying number of hens, Sarah Glass seconded. Unanimous **APPROVAL**.
- 6) # 895 Abigail Angove, 3800 Glenfield Dr. for hen permit. Dr. Lisa Chassy motioned to approve, Sarah Glass seconded. Unanimous **APPROVAL for two hens only**.
- 7) #894 Zoo Knoxville for Knox Co. Schools events. Dr. Lisa Chassy motioned to approve, Lisa Skinner seconded. Unanimous **APPROVAL**.
- 8) #893 Katelyn Treat, 224 Kassen Rd. for hen permit. Sarah Glass motioned to approve, Ashley seconded. Unanimous **APPROVAL**.

TOPICS DISCUSSED

Christine Kovacsics was present requesting a goat permit for two emotional support goats. She explained she has a doctor's letter of support along from a petition in support from her neighborhood that is included in the packet. Her boss, Bill, and his wife, Emily, were present along with the wife's sister. She shared her struggles amidst a divorce and moving to Knoxville and decided to get a pygmy goat. She didn't realize she needed a permit until her fence broke and one escaped forcing a neighbor to call. She explained they are very well-behaved goats.

Chair Testerman asked if she owned the property where she lived, and Ms. Kovacsics confirmed she does.

Chair Testerman explained that some matters are outside the board's purview, and this situation actually involves zoning, and our legal counsel, who is generally in attendance, is absent.

Ms. Kovacsics explained she had spoken last March with Municipal Court Judge Rosson who has seen the paperwork and set another upcoming court date on Monday at which point ACO Powell told her to attend the AC Board meeting. Ms. Kovacsics said she was originally told to get a livestock permit and also said she had spoken to four or five people in plans review, and they had no idea outside of a goat grazing permit about an emotional support animal permit. Chair Testerman's recommendation was to postpone discussion of this request until we could get more information from our legal counsel, and for Ms. Kovacsics, in the meantime, to get a 90-day goat grazing permit should any concerns arise.

Sarah Glass explained the only permits we approve are for pot belly pigs, hens, goat grazing, kennel permits and animal exhibitions.

Chair Testerman thanked Ms. Kovacsics for going above and beyond, but the zoning piece is outside our scope of responsibility; however, we would try to get some answers.

Her boss shared he used to be on the Mayor's Council for Disabilities and that the subject and importance of comfort animals would come up frequently, usually regarding dogs. He praised Ms. Kovacsics for her responsible behavior and for her commitment to helping take care of them.

Sarah Glass explained the history of the pot-belly pig permit and that you could have a pig if you just got the signatures of all the neighbor's whose properties touched the property of the person who was applying. Lawyers with the city later determined this approach gave the citizens more control than the city so the permit came into play.

Dr. Lisa Chassy reiterated the need for Doug Gordon's interpretation and how to work around this request to make it happen.

Chair Testerman told Ms. Kovacsics to move forward with the goat grazing permit, telling her this is what the board advised as they get more information.

Emily made the comment that it was really refreshing to hear people doing public service and working together in this way. She was very appreciative.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22pm.