

Meeting Notes, as submitted by Juleen Russell.  
Meeting of the Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board  
October 22, 2009  
Lakewood City Hall, Jury Room  
Lakewood, OH

Attendees:

Councilman Kevin Butler (Board member)  
Councilman Tom Bullock  
Mike Stewart, Lakewood ACO (Board member)  
Sean Lavin (Board member)  
Juleen Russell (Board member)  
Dr. Bo Rog (Board member)  
Helen Geidelis (CCLAS Secretary)  
Jennifer Roche (CCLAS President)  
Dawn Pine (CCLAS Volunteer)

Not in attendance: Jennifer Barnes (e-mailed ahead)

Meeting began at 6:30pm

Introductions were made.

Councilman Bullock is here to talk with us about the proposal to allow dogs on leash in select Lakewood Parks. He indicated that the ordinance prohibiting this has been in place since 1972, and he has been unable to decipher the historical background to it.

He has some hunches, such as cleanliness. There have been 3-4 public safety meetings on this topic with additional good feedback coming in. He thinks the ordinance is about 80-90% ready. It will allow dogs on leash in a few select parks and be for a trial period. He mentioned citizens providing a majority of the oversight of the enforcement of rules with minimal costs to the City, with some personnel time & initial capital improvements items. The idea is that the public will create 'peer pressure' for folks to follow the rules.

Jennifer asked if objective measures will be used to determine it is a success or failure. Councilman Butler said that they will rely on Council to see through claims. Jennifer asked if there will be some flexibility for special events - possible discretionary enforcement of the ordinance. Mike asked if there were citations associated with this. Councilman Butler said he will find that part of the ordinance. There will be posted rules. Dr. Bog mentioned the need for wheeled traffic having Right Of Way on the paths. Possibly reviewing some of the rules the Metroparks uses would be beneficial resource. Councilman Bullock said that there will be another Public Safety Meeting on it, and he would like to put this one to bed before the end of the year. The retractable leash language will most likely be removed.

LASWAB may vote to recommend the proposed ordinance, after it is in its final version has been circulated.

The CCLAS group is here to talk to us about the cat overpopulation challenge in Lakewood. CCLAS presented a slide show about CCLAS and cat overpopulation; what it's about and ways to remedy it. They would like to co-facilitate spay/neuter programming with the City of Lakewood. They said they are working on reenergizing their volunteer base, as it has been declining. They also said they were also challenged by a lack of funding. Because the shelter space is so limited, they cannot accommodate all the homeless cats coming in.

Councilman Butler said that statistics are needed when going to Council. That a back up to the 'problem' statement (about cat overpopulation) will be needed; need to start compiling data.

Jennifer said there is grant money available to institute such programs. This will make the proposal even more attractive.

Strays, ferals, both would be candidates unless adopted.

Sean: is it possible to identify colonies? Mike said Beach parkway is #1 hot spot. He said they could start to track calls / where problem locations are.

Dr. Bog asked if there are any stats on cats that test positive for Feline Leukemia (FeLV) or Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)? Jen will look into it.

Mike said that most of the cats coming in / being euthanized are not feral. Jennifer said that she thinks Westlake has a functioning program. She will look into what they're doing.

Councilman Butler said at our November meeting we could work on a proposed revision to the ordinance to create an exception to those parts of the ordinance that prohibit animals at large - in the event a city sponsored program was established, this would allow grant applications to be filed.

Jennifer said there is a need to capitalize on recent rise in volunteer motivation. CCLAS will start to compile stats / data and get back to us with their findings.

Our next meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, City Hall / Jury Room.  
(Our December meeting will be on the 16<sup>th</sup>)