



David J. Jackson
Fire Chief, Fire Department

Health & Human Services Committee

July 11th, 2017
5:30 PM / Room 209
City Hall,
Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendance:

Belinda S. Ray, Chair (District 1), Brian Batson (District 3), Nicholas M. Mavodones, Jr. (At Large)

City Staff Attendance:

Mayor, Ethan Strimling; Director of Health & Human Services, Dawn Stiles; City Manager's Office, Julie Sullivan; Fire Chief, David Jackson; Director of Planning and Urban Development, Jeff Levine; Corporation Counsel, Danielle West-Chuhta

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Meeting Called to Order and Minutes Reviewed:

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:34PM

Chair Ray moved to accept minutes from previous meeting. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

Before the meeting could officially begin Mayor Strimling requested clarification on tonight's discussion on shelters. Chair Ray clarified tonight's discussion would be in fact on smaller shelters.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - Zoning for Smaller Shelters: Initial Discussion

Mark Swan from Preble Street gave an overview of benefits of smaller shelters (20-25 beds would be appropriate, population specific, operation cost, licensing requirements – 20 beds is a visible) be able to better serve the most vulnerable if smaller shelters are spread throughout the city. Mayor Strimling whom was present for the discussion asked

Jeff Levine, Director of Planning & Urban Development - gave a detailed overview on proposed updates for ordinance *Sec. 14-474 Conditional uses* zoning language in regards to shelters (See handout #1)

Councilor Batson – requested a matrix and/or map to reflect listing shelters (maximum # beds) along with square footage requirements within zones. Councilor Mavodones - agreed a map would be helpful. Councilor Ray added to the discussion that the proposed language shelters would be able to go anywhere in the city.

AGENDA ITEM 3- Plan for Follow-up to Positive Health Transition

Background: The City's HIV Positive Health Care clinic closed at the end of 2016 when the grant which funded it was transitioned to Greater Portland Health. As we approach the one-year mark of the transition of many of the City's former Positive Health patients to other facilities, we would like to assess our process around the transition and the overall results.

Dawn Stiles, Director of Health and Human Services & Julie Sullivan - gave an overview (see handout #2 *Follow-up Survey on Positive Health Care Transition*) the city will work with the Public Health Program at USM and the Patient Advocacy Committee to survey 149 Positive HealthCare patients regarding transition from city-run clinic that closed back in December 2016. The survey and analysis will be completed by the end of the calendar year.



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The Chair opened for Public Comment at this time.

-Jenson Steel, Chair of Patient Advocacy Committee, spoke briefly on the closure of clinic that preparations were not made properly. This survey serves as a purpose for patients, this serves as a voice, and the input gathered can be put to great use for others.

-Joey Brennan- serves on Patient Advocacy Committee, shared with the group that patients that left India Street found care elsewhere, feels survey will make patients feel that people do care and the survey from the transitions itself we can all learn from this and be able to share with others

*public comment closed at this time

Councilor Mavodones asked if the results would be available for other communities. Jenson Steele replied – yes

Councilor Mavodones added that the study will be beneficial. Chair Ray thanked Julianne for her continued work on this project as the one year mark quickly approaches. Chair Ray finds the feedback important to see how the transition is going. There are times the city has to make transitions and it is important to analyze the data for future communications.

AGENDA ITEM 4- Prohibition on Display of Wild and Exotic Animals

Councilor Batson supports the Prohibition of Display of Wild and Exotic Animals. Councilor Batson introduced Gina Geary and Katie Hansberry – any questions committee will refer to Gina & Katie to answer.

Chair Ray asked Danielle West-Chuhta, Corporation Counsel for feedback: (see handout #3)

- Remove criminal violation section we do not have the ability to do so – Would the city be able to regulate? Violation section needs to be tweaked.
- Section A - talks about violation by any person allow – Wild and Exotic animal travel act? What is the goal here? Need to be more specific? Something to talk about – no such acts in the city? May only impact? Limited, needs to be clear for whom is enforcing this
- Who is enforcing? What department is responsible for enforcing? Legal cannot be the department. In the past, an ordinance named enforcement department can be the City Manager or designee as a good fall back– that way they could enforce the ordinance as he/she would designee – need to add established reasons for council to review
- What prompted this ordinance?

Council Mavodones asked if tweaks were completed – Danielle replied not yet, but can be ready for council to review. Chair asked if there were any comments for Danielle. Katie & Gina asked even though the ordinance is not amended as of today – Can this proceed to Council?

Chair Ray responded this is still possible. Danielle will complete tweaks to be brought forward to council with no hiccups.

Public Comment opened at this time:

Katie Hansberry, HSUS Maine State Director (Humane Society) Portland Resident - strongly encouraged support for this ordinance she gave a detailed overview regarding traveling animal cruelty (please see handouts #4 the Katie read to committee)

Gina Geary, Portland Resident, Animal Behaviorist, thanked the committee for this opportunity in support of the ordinance took the floor gave a detailed overview for her support for the ordinance. She spoke on the five freedoms raising wellness, welfare physical and emotional as well as mental state of the animals, protection, nutrition (see handout) for more details.



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Paula Erbeck, Portland resident - nobody profits, morale issues, people are turning a blind eye, horrible conditions that the animals are in, subcontractors are out of Florida and contracted by circus and a huge distant between where the shows happen, sends a disillusion messages to children

Michael Steinmeyer-appreciates being able to speak on the subject where he did not know this was on the agenda this evening- and definitely not in favor of animal cruelty, only objection to this would be would this bar public display or ban exotic animals for educational purposes where Portland does not have a zoo? (Chair Ray responded will answer questions at the end of public comment)

Joey Brennan-Portland resident, will be brief, in years ahead our great grandchildren will not know what circuses are, they will be a part of the past-You know what thing to do is?

Val Giguere, (see handout #5) Animal Maine Coalition -sent a letter of support, this perpetrates the system this is not great on many levels.

Jackie, Limerick resident, traveled in to speak- is a protestor, animals suffer, it is unnatural state for animals, they deserve to live in sanctuaries.

Melissa Gates- Founder of Animal Rights- (see handout) has witnessed many issues, animal care givers smoking around the animals, pitch forks being used, she has videos on her website, elephants have been known to carry TB – gave a timeline for elephant that carried TB- this has NOT happened here – but it could. TB kills 1.5 million people every year. Elephants need to be tested and testing results vary.

Accidents happen. These animals are forced to travel long miles in tiny cages. Kids are encouraged to touch the animals in these cages. I hope you take the time to read my submission. Wardens are not trained for proper permits issuance for these animals, we have seen a dwindle of people protesting.

Public opinion has gone down. We need to teach kids taking animals out of the wild is not ok. Portland needs to make a stand (see handout #6)

Nicole- volunteer animal rights activist- spoke on Mary the elephant, domestically overrun, its 2017 we know better Portland has an opportunity to take a stand

****Closed Public Comment at this time**

Committee Discussion:

Chair Ray responded to public comment/question re: banning display of animals all together – yes this ordinance would ban public display of animals

Chair Ray discussed further with Danielle regarding corrections to ordinance specific eliminate all such acts- Is the intent to limit animals in acts? The section needs to be clear. The ordinance will need clarification on wording, expand on this section

Councilor Mavodones – he spoke to not having animal acts here in Portland, likes changes discussed Danielle – will draft the changes

- Fines \$250
- Whereas reason & intent
- Person as – enforcing (could be City Manager or designee)
- effective date (Notification of upcoming acts want to give plenty of notice)
- refer to City Council

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.