

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
Wednesday, July 27, 2011 8:15 AM – 10:55 AM
Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street, Missoula, Montana

Members Present: Dave Strohmaier, Bob Jaffe, Dick Haines, Lynn Hellegaard, Renee Mitchell
Members Not Present: Pam Walzer, Cynthia Wolken, Jon Wilkins, Ed Childers
Other Present: Jim Nugent, Jim Carlson, Ed Franceschina, Marty Rehbein, Elizabeth Johnson

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes from [July 20, 2011](#). Minutes approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEM

1. Consider an ordinance amending Title 6 Missoula Municipal Code entitled "Animals" repealing Chapters 6.02, 6.04, 6.09, 6.12, 6.16, 6.20 and 6.22, enacting Chapter 6.07 entitled "Animal Ordinance" and renaming Chapter 6.08 entitled "Dogs and Pet Shops" to "Pet Shops, Pet Sales and Boarding Kennels" to generally amend, recodify and update the city's regulations pertaining to animals, increase license fees and increase fines pertaining to violations. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 06/27/11)

Marty Rehbein discussed the changes to the Animal Ordinance and the different versions of the draft.

Dave Strohmaier asked about changes to the cruelty to animals section and their relation to State law.

Marty Rehbein discussed those changes.

Dave Strohmaier discussed the three options for leashing dogs and voice restraint.

Jim Carlson discussed voice restraint and voice restraint areas. He discussed leash requirements.

Donna Gaukler discussed natural resource protection. She described the impacts of heavy usage of natural resources. She discussed closures of certain areas.

Jim Nugent inquired about the definition of conservation lands in regards to conservation easements.

Donna Gaukler replied that conservation lands affected by the ordinance are the parcels listed in the ordinance.

Marty Rehbein referred to the rules for dogs under voice restraint.

Jim Carlson continued outlining the options for leashing dogs and voice restraint.

Donna Gaukler discussed the bark parks. She pointed out that Playfair Park is small and thus not used very much. She discussed the dog training area at Fort Missoula.

Bob Jaffe would like to see the options clarified for the public.

Dave Strohmaier asked for some clarification regarding the current practice section.

Donna Gaukler clarified.

Jim Carlson discussed the rules regarding voice restraint. He described voice restraint certification.

Elizabeth Johnson described an incident where a dog owner allowed a dog to harass wildlife on waterworks hill. She expressed support for voice control certification.

Dick Haines discussed the issue of enforcement.

Jim Carlson stated that current Animal Control staffing is inadequate for enforcement activities.

Lyn Hellegaard would like to discuss an Animal Control staffing increase at some point.

Jim Carlson discussed staffing allocation.

Dick Haines discussed animal owners violating the law without consequences.

Dave Strohmaier inquired about enforcement of dog waste laws.

Ed Franceschina discussed the difficulty of enforcing dog waste laws.

Jim Carlson stated that a violator of dog waste laws would need to be identified in order for a citation to be issued.

Dick Haines discussed the frustration of the public by scofflaws.

Dave Strohmaier asked why the North Hills was dropped from option 2.

Donna Gaukler discussed density of use between the 'L' trail, the 'M,' trail, and the North Hills trail.

Jim Carlson discussed the utilization of the ridgeline trail.

Bob Jaffe feels that the ten foot rule in the definitions section is too strict.

Jim Carlson discussed the reasoning behind it.

Bob Jaffe suggested changing the definition to two feet.

Jim Carlson discussed the perception of dog owners regarding the distance.

Dave Strohmaier suggested using five feet.

Dick Haines described his mixed emotions regarding voice restraint.

Bob Jaffe stated that the distance rule is needed to establish expectations. He feels that ten foot rule will be violated. He feels that five feet would be reasonable.

Dick Haines agreed with Bob.

Jim Carlson discussed the use of conservation lands by dogs and their owners to keep both healthy and active.

Renee Mitchell described the difficulty of regulating dog owners. She described some of her experiences regarding dogs, leashes, and wildlife.

V. HELD AND ON-GOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Police Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mark Muir)
2. Fire Department Update – Ongoing in Committee (Mike Painter)
3. Health Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Ellen Leahy)
4. Eat Smart Coalition information. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 07/11/11)

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM. Submitted by Gregg Schonbachler.