City of Sheboygan BYATCN75F975
2021-02-24

PET-FRIENDLY TASK GROUP - 12: 30 PM (Wednesday, February 24, 2021)Generated by Abby Block on Monday, March 29, 2021

1. OPENING OF MEETINGMEMBERS PRESENT: Betty Ackley, Abby Block, Mike Heimbach, Kate HodgesMEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY: Michelle Gentine, Michelle Warner, Gretchen Huston, Kristine Potter, Nichole Bredesen, Ofc. Kevin Post, Laura BerchamABSENT: Lisa MarekSTAFF/OFFICIALS PRESENT: Joe Kerlin, Mayor Michael Vandersteen

1.1 Call to Order.

Chair Betty Ackley called the meeting to order.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited

1.3 Roll call: Roll call: Michelle Gentine, Lisa Marek, Abby Block, Michelle Warner, Betty Ackley, Nichole Bredesen, Mike Heimbach, Kate Hodges, Kristine Potter, Gretchen Huston, Kevin Post and Laura Bercham may attend meeting remotely.

2. MINUTES

2.1 Motion by Kate Hodges to approve the minutes of January 27, 2021 meeting. Second by Mike Heimbach. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

3.1 No one spoke.

4. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

4.1 Community Survey Update

Those in attendance discussed the roll out of the upcoming survey. The City's annual survey is active from February 1 st- 22 nd. In an effort to avoid confusion or survey fatigue, the committee will plan to open

the survey in April. Members will reach out to area vets to ask for their assistance in encouraging participation amount their clients. Although good ideas, there is not a budget available for a gift card for a

drawing, boosted social media posts or other paid media. Michelle Gentine requested the ability to add additional questions.

4.2 Online Assessment update

After submitting the assessment to Mars Pet Care in November, a member of their team reached out to request a call to discuss the submission, feeling there were areas where Sheboygan may have sold itself short. Call occurred on February 4 th with Beth from the Mars Corporation. She suggested adding a link on the City website for disaster relief and encouraging workplaces (including City Hall) to try a one-day trial where pets may join their humans. In addition, Beth encouraged the committee to take a closer look at the current state of housing and prompted discussion around building a stronger relationship between the City and the Humane Society. Following the summary, Kristine Potter stated that people assume the shelter is City or County funded and that more clarity is needed to publicize the fact that the Humane Society is funded by donations. Mayor Vandersteen shared that, while not City owned or operated, the City does invest all pet licensing fees in the shelter, approximately $40,000 the last time he looked. The committee will make noted updates and resubmit the application.

4.3 Discussion surrounding the task group's objectives and role moving forward.

Superintendent of Parks, Joe Kerlin, discussed the structure of ordinance changes/additions and the entities involved including the Marina Parks and Forestry committee which oversees the Department of Public Works. Joe thought the work of the task group could help inform what ordinance changes are desirable. He mentioned that hosting a fundraiser on the beach, like last year s proposed Dogtoberfest, would require an ordinance change, possibly allowing for Director of DPW to approve events. Some special events may welcome pets but others may not. Joe also felt that even in pet-friendly parks, certain areas remain pet free: playgrounds, splash pads, skate park, cross country ski trails. Discussion surrounding pet-related ordinances and the task group's role moving forward

5. CLOSING OF MEETING

5.1 Next meeting date: Wednesday, March 31 st

5.2 Adjournment

Motion by Kate Hodges, second by Abby Block to adjourn. Motion carried. Do to no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1: 16 pm