

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
JUNE 23, 2014**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Burns, Ald. Brown (Chair), Bruno, Cummings, Flanagan, Kilburg, Maladra, Marks, Simonian, Singer, Seno

STAFF PRESENT: McKittrick, Dawkins, Divita, Mexin, Schiber

1. Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and held a moment of silence for Cathy Baldwin, Police Dept. employee, who had recently passed. Brown also read aloud a remembrance sent in by former Alderman Sam Hill.

2. Consider Consent Agenda

Moved by Ald. Marks, second by Ald. Bruno V/V: 10-0 Motion carried.

3. Approve Committee of the Whole Minutes from June 9, 2014 and Special Committee of the Whole Minutes from June 16, 2014. *(approved on Consent Agenda)

4. Items of Business

- a. Recommend Removal of Four (4) Homes from Proposed TIF District Based on Amended Downtown Master Plan.

Moved by Ald. Cummings, second by Ald. Maladra V/V: 10-0 Motion carried.

- b. Recommend Draft Resolution Expressing Official Intent Regarding Certain Expenditures to be Reimbursed from the Special Tax Allocation Fund and/or from Proceeds of Debt Issued, if any, in Connection with a Proposed Tax Increment Financing District.

Moved by Ald. Singer, second by Ald. Maladra

Ellen Divita provided information on the funding process, and also noted that attorney Brian Baugh was in the audience. V/V: 10-0 Motion carried.

5. Policy Discussion on the City's Current Coyote Population

Ald. Brown waived the Rules of Order and opened up the floor for discussion. Ald. Flanagan began by stating the history of recent inquiries and concerns within her ward and the desire to revisit the city's policy that was set ten years ago.

Admin. McKittrick provided background on how the current policy was created based on Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources recommendations and studies. Council thought that education on living around them was the proper path at this time. The city hired an IDNR staffer to hold information meetings and provide documentation on the recommendations. Mayor Burns noted that had recently spoken to affected residents who were interested in removal, as well as those who were not. McKittrick provided council with a log provided by the Police Dept. noting all calls received in the last three years regarding sightings (Exhibit A).

Resident Kayla Block, 3362 Harvest Ridge, provided a prepared statement detailing the current situation in her neighborhood and the recent coyote attack on her dog while in their yard. Block stated that while the dog recovered, she is now afraid to let her children outside in their own yard and would like the city to remove the aggressive coyotes from their neighborhood. She stated that she has not received adequate response from the city and requested that the council change its policy and remove the animals.

Brian Darnell, 261 Planters Row, stated that he was 'molested' by two coyotes while walking his dog in Block's neighborhood earlier this year. Darnell had seen a den at the FAA tower. Darnell requested that the council look into removing only the aggressive animals.

Wendy Cullen, Bluegrass Lane, recounted her sightings in the Fisher Farms neighborhood while jogging in the middle of the day. Cullen also stated that the animals are not afraid of humans and that hazing does not work in attempting to scare them off.

Rob Erickson, a coyote trapper from DeKalb, presented information regarding the benefits of tracking and trapping problem coyotes and also provided statistics from the State of Illinois on the number of captures between 1992 and 2012, noting the increase over the course of time (Exhibit B). Erickson advocated for the city to hire a trapper who would be able to identify the aggressive animals and remove them (euthanize) from the targeted area. Erickson noted that the city would need to allow all sightings to be reported so a log could be kept to better understand their movements. Erickson also provided a document showing 'Seven Phases Precipitating Aggression Towards Humans' that was published by Dr. Robert Timm of the University of California-Davis. (Exhibit C)

Noni Richards, 465 Prairie View, also relayed her accounts of seeing aggressive coyotes and has since stopped walking her dogs as a result.

Penny McAffrey, 3502 Ridgepoint Drive, requested the city to begin a reporting website or section on the current city website so a log could be started. McAffrey stated that there was not enough information for residents as to the best way to report the sightings.

Resident Paul Wessel, 481 Prairievew, commented on the regular sightings along his property line against the Ryan Homes development to the north.

Several alderman were in favor of staff researching techniques that other communities have used in coping with coyotes in recent years. Mayor Burns brought up the idea of funding any trapping and removal either through the residents' homeowners association or through their current SSA since the problem persists within their specific neighborhood. Ald. Bruno and Flanagan were not opposed to that process.

Ald. Simonian and Bruno also expressed interest in having the county involved in the process.

Ald. Brown urged all residents to report sightings by calling the City at (630) 232-7494.

6. **New Business**

7. **Upcoming Meetings:** Committee of the Whole Policy Discussion:
Mon., June 30, 2014.

8. **Closed Session on the Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the Use of the Public Body.**

Moved by Ald. Marks, second by Ald. Bruno Roll Call: 10-0 Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 8:57pm.

Moved by Ald. Marks, second by Ald. Simonian, the meeting was brought back into open session at 9:50pm.

9. **Adjournment**

On a motion by Ald. Flanagan, second by Ald. Singer, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 9:50pm.

Submitted by Recording Secretary Jeanne Fornari

EXHIBIT A

COYOTE STATISTICS RELATIVE TO the City of GENEVA Jan. 2012 – May 2014

2012

Total sightings called into 911:	<u>4</u>
Eastside Sightings:	<u>2</u>
Central Sightings:	<u>2</u>
Westside Sightings:	<u>0</u>
Sightings in Fisher Farms:	<u>0</u>

2013

Total sightings called into 911:	<u>14</u> (possibly only 13 since one report was of 2 deer <u>or</u> 2 coyotes)
Eastside Sightings:	<u>8</u> (possibly only 7 because they could have been deer)
Central Sightings:	<u>2</u>
Westside Sightings:	<u>4</u>
Sightings in Fisher Farms:	<u>0</u>

2014 (January – May)

Total sightings called into 911:	<u>9</u> (possibly only 8 since one report was of a fox <u>or</u> a coyote)
Eastside Sightings:	<u>0</u>
Central Sightings:	<u>2</u>
Westside Sightings:	<u>7</u>
Sightings in Fisher Farms:	<u>4</u> (7 if you include sightings at Kaneville & Randall, Peck & Keslinger and Bricher & Peck)

EXHIBIT B

From: Rob Erickson wctech@ix.netcom.com
Subject: FW: Increase in coyote problems
Date: June 16, 2014 at 5:30 PM
To: Dmunch1@msn.com

From: Bluett, Bob [<mailto:Bob.Bluett@Illinois.gov>]
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:41 PM
To: Rob Erickson
Subject: RE: Increase in coyote problems

These figures are for captures by commercial and governmental nuisance wildlife control permittees.

year	Chicago metro	Statewide
2012	423	931
2011	485	849
2010	522	952
2009	399	679
2008	399	679
2007	348	695
2006	295	542
2005	374	593
2004	267	487
2003	357	588
2002	321	542
2001	372	576
2000	326	467
1999	322	588
1998	372	424
1997	218	370
1996	259	348
1995	176	369
1994	126	317
1993	56	255
1992	123	270

From: Rob Erickson [<mailto:wctech@ix.netcom.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:30 AM
To: Bluett, Bob
Subject: Increase in coyote problems

EXHIBIT C

CoyoteWatchLosGatos

- Home
- My Story
- About Urban Coyotes
- Prevention
- Sightings/Encounters
- Articles/Websites
- Memorial

Coyotes thrive in our urban and suburban environments. They have food, water and shelter; everything they need to thrive. They have no predators. The wolves are gone and we do little to contain their population. They have 5 to 7 pups per season. They will reach approximately 25 to 50 pounds. The April through October time frame is when the majority of the attacks occur on children, pets and adults. The coyotes are teaching their pups how to hunt at this time. By November, the males are pushed out of the pack and they find their own new territory. The cycle continues. By the third generation of coyotes in your neighborhood, they have lost all their fear of humans.

Dr. Robert Timm, UC Davis, has defined the 7 phases precipitating aggression towards humans

1. An increase in observing coyotes on streets and in yards at night
2. An increase in coyotes approaching adults and/or taking pets at night
3. Early morning and late afternoon daylight observance of coyotes on streets and in parks
4. Daylight observance of coyotes chasing or taking pets
5. *Coyotes attacking and taking pets on a leash or in close proximity to their owners; coyotes chasing joggers, bicyclists and other adults.
6. Coyotes seen in and around children play areas, school grounds and parks mid-day
7. Coyotes acting aggressively toward adults during mid-day

*Present Phase in Los Gatos and surrounding communities

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