

**WALKER PLANNING COMMISSION  
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 20, 2013  
6:00 p.m. 701 Elm Street Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room**

- 1. Call to Order** 6:01 p.m. by acting chair Char Moore.

**Roll Call**

Members Present: Jane Ekholm, Char Moore, Rich Hansen, and Terri Bjorklund

Members Absent: Jeff Holly, Gary Wilkening, and Greg Smith

Staff: Pamela Smith

Others: Pat Finney and Della Lembke

- 2. Additions or deletions to agenda:**

None.

- 3. Tana Idstrom - request to address the board regarding Animal Ordinance update specifically regarding Chickens.**

Tana Idstrom was unable to make it to the meeting to speak to the board. Terri Bjorklund then summarized what Tana wanted to address the Board about. Tana's residence in Walker is located on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. She is requesting to have 2-3 chickens; currently she would need to apply for a Conditional Use at a cost of \$395.00. Terri informed her that the Board is currently working on an animal ordinance. That it may be in her benefit to wait until we have an updated animal ordinance in place that could include chickens. After some discussion from the Board regarding the benefits of chickens and the zoning that would be applied to this it was decided to wait to make a decision on this issue.

- 4. Announcements by Chair:**

None.

- 5. M/S/A of minutes: Ekholm/Hansen to approve of minutes for April 29, 2013.**

Ekholm requests that the wording from the last minutes from section number 7, fifth paragraph, the statement, *Ekholm states that having a record of licensing these animals is important*. This statement was out of sequence and should be moved to the end of the next paragraph beginning with *Ekholm removes herself from the board*.

Motion passed (3-0)

- 6. Building/Zoning Report.**

Zoning Administrator Bjorklund reviews the report with the board at this time.

Ekholm states that she wasn't aware that replacing a furnace required a building permit.

Terri replies that since the adoption of State Code requirements this is required.

- 7. Continue work on Ordinance Chapter 91: Animals**

**a) Review proposed Ordinance**

At this time Moore asks a member of the public, Pat Finney if she has anything that she would like to add at this time.

Pat begins to describe a troublesome past with 2 dogs attacking her smaller dog while she is walking, dogs barking constantly during the evening, and dogs running freely all over town. Pat also mentions Wayne becoming involved with a number of these situations. She states that she feels that our ordinances should be followed and something done to control this issue.

At this time Ekholm removes herself from the board.

Ekholm describes an incident that took place a few weeks ago. A customer that had brought her dog into Walker Animal Hospital for a dog bite/attack and that the customer herself was attacked as well. The dogs that attacked her were wearing shock collars. This incident was reported to the City of Walker Police, and it was noted by Jane that Wayne responded to this incident was taken care of. The victim of the dog bite was then driven to a local clinic by Wayne to get a tinnitus shot.

Ekholm mentions that if this would have been a licensed animal we could have found out if it had received a rabies shot.

The board discusses the fees it needed to cover of enforcing the ordinance and the impoundment if necessary.

Terri-(refers to the Fee chart in that packet stating that); The Fee's listed here wouldn't even be close to cover the amount of time that would go into this.

Ekholm-Maybe we need to know what it's costing the City to not do anything.

Moore asks the board if the Police Department still sends roaming dogs to the Cass Lake animal shelter, and she is reminded that we do.

Terri-Rorry is really good about it; he usually will meet us halfway. This saves us gas and time.

Pat and Della refer back to the story regarding the dog attack and that Wayne told them to press charges, and that if they don't next time he will.

Terri-While we are having some issues with this are we good in following through.

Pat-Yes.

At this time Ekholm is seats herself back at the board.

Ekholm requests that any wording that refers to spaying should be changed to neutering as to use the correct terminology.

Hansen discusses a possible typo in 91.01B referring to the *owner* and the board notes that this could change as we develop the ordinance, so the terminology will be left as is for now.

Terri reads a letter from PAWs and CLAWs regarding their inability to help with the animal ordinance drafting at this time, however would like to remain in contact with us once they have developed policies about 2 years from now.

Hansen discusses the chicken ordinance with the question of how it is to be controlled by zoning in the residential districts and the how to handle the enforcement suggesting that every City Official be designated to enforce the animal ordinance.

The Board discusses the confinement of chickens at each parcel with chicken wire and it is noted that that would be in conflict with the fence ordinance laws.

Hansen mentions that if the chickens would be confined to too small an area that they would need to take into account the concentration of odor/feces that would be problematic.

Moore states that the Board is looking for one more person to join and the possible resignation of Jeff Holly.

**M/S Moore/Hansen** motioned to adjourn the meeting of the planning commission at 6:50 p.m.