

Members Present: Council Member Laura P. Cox, Chair

Council Member Barbara Chick Council Member Darren Lathen

Guests: Council Member John Willis

Staff Present: Neil Montgomery, Senior Managing Director of Development Services

Brad Neighbor, City Attorney Mike Betz, Deputy City Attorney

Richard Briley, Managing Director of Health Steve Killen, Director of Code Compliance

Jason Chessher Diana Oats

Chairperson Laura Cox called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The minutes of the August 26, 2009 meeting were approved after a motion by Council Member Barbara Chick; seconded by Council Member Darren Lathen.

# Consider regulations governing the location and placement of newspaper vending boxes

Mike Betz briefed the committee on the research he had done regarding case law on this subject. He indicated that while there is some ability to regulate the size, shape, number and placement of this type of dispensing device, any proposed regulation must be balanced with free speech concerns. Brad Neighbor discussed an ordinance the City of Dallas enacted several years ago. Mike Betz stated that, in his opinion, there is an unfavorable legal environment for regulations of the type being contemplated. After additional discussion the Committee unanimously decided to recommend that no further action be taken on this item.

### Consider modifications to Section 32.52, Weeds, of the Code of Ordinances

Steve Killen distributed information to the committee members regarding a policy on annual notices. The policy was brought forward as an alternative to the suggestion to reduce the high weed standard from 12" to 8" and proposed to use the annual notice for properties in violation of the high grass ordinance. The memorandum listed a number of advantages that staff believed this policy would have over existing procedures as well as the proposed change. After discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the policy be adopted in place of any changes to the existing ordinance standards.

## Community Services Committee Minutes of the November 2, 2009 Meeting

### Consider the establishment of a mandatory spay and neutering program

Jason Chessher distributed for consideration a memorandum outlining the pros and cons of adopting such a program and listing several alternatives. He indicated that staff would recommend the alternative which called for stiffer penalties for owners of animals caught running at large. Council Member John Willis stated that there is some research which indicates a mandatory spay and neutering program may actually make the problem worse. Staff was asked to look at the fees structure and also other cities experience and report back at the next meeting.

#### Review Neighborhood Vitality applications

Staff distributed copies of the latest round of applications and provided recommendations on each. After discussion, the Committee unanimously recommended that the applications be brought to the next Council meeting as recommended by staff.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Submitted by: Neil Montgomery

Approved by Committee: November 30, 2009

Approved by: Council Member Laura Perkins Cox, Chairperson