

## **Non-Lethal Deer Management Meeting**

Date: September 28, 2016

Location: Humane Society of Huron Valley

In Attendance:

Howard Lazarus, City of Ann Arbor

Derek Delacourt, City of Ann Arbor

Tom Crawford, City of Ann Arbor

Tanya Hilgendorf, Humane Society of Huron Valley

Wendy Welch, Humane Society of Huron Valley

Karen Patterson, Humane Society of Huron Valley

### **Meeting Purpose:**

This meeting was scheduled with several purposes in mind. Most importantly, the staff members from the two organizations met to establish individual connections. Additionally, the City has been meeting with the self-organized citizen groups on planning lethal and non-lethal deer management and wanted to discuss potential opportunities for HSHV to participate. With the assistance of the citizen groups, the planning process has progressed and the City wanted to review the status of these efforts with HSHV. Specifically the City shared the draft 2017 Deer Management Plan Objectives and draft Data Plan. The City recently received a draft proposal from White Buffalo for implementing a lethal and non-lethal deer management program which was also shared. Finally, City staff shared the anticipated timing of finalizing objectives, discussing the White Buffalo proposal, and presenting to City Council.

### **Summary of Discussion:**

Deer Plan Objectives - reviewed draft report. HSHV discussed the need to incorporate educational efforts on methods residents may choose to live with deer such as fencing, selected plantings, etc. HSHV expressed a desire for additional data before goals are finalized or a lethal program is implemented. It was also pointed out the HSHV receives calls from residents when there's an injured deer and they have not seen the number of calls materially change. There was a discussion on community tolerance for aspects of a deer management plan and HSHVs views on aspects of the city's draft plan.

HSHV pointed out that humane for their constituency relates to not killing an otherwise healthy animal. Additionally, they expressed a concern for anytime population management is used to solve an animal nuisance problem since it could set a dangerous precedence. HSHV was clear in their opinion that the City has not put forth enough effort into education to increase the tolerance of deer impacts prior to the use of culling as a solution.

The Data Plan, Plan Objectives & White Buffalo Proposal were discussed briefly and provided for future comment.

The meeting concluded with the City considering incorporating HSHVs suggestions into the draft objectives. HSHV is considering engaging with city staff or participating in the non-lethal deer management meetings with the citizen groups to develop an educational strategy and plan to assist residents in living with deer.