

Non-Lethal Deer Management Meeting

Date: September 28, 2016

Location: City Hall

In Attendance:

Derek Delacourt	City of Ann Arbor
Steve Schantz	City of Ann Arbor
Dave Borneman	City of Ann Arbor
Bob McGee	A2 Residents for Non-Lethal Deer Management
Loraine Fig	FAAWN
Phil Carroll	FAAWN
Sabra Sanzotta	Ann Arbor Residents for Public Safety

Meeting Purpose

The intent of the meeting was to review and discuss the proposal received by White Buffalo for both lethal and non-lethal (surgical sterilization) activities in the City.

Meeting Summary

The meeting initiated with discussion regarding the timeframes for review of the proposal. It was offered that the proposal and contract may be discussed as soon as the October 17th City Council Meeting with a follow up workshop on October 24th and final consideration of the proposal on November 10th. The process for approval and review time necessary by the MDNR was also discussed. There was strong sentiment for the group that the workshop was important but, if it was necessary to get the proposal submitted to MDNR in a timely manner, that pushing for consideration on October 17th was important. Staff indicated that they would verify with MDNR if there was a significant difference between submitting mid-October vs. mid-November. The need for session/s to educate the public on the status of the deer management program was also discussed.

McGee requested that City Council consider a working session with Dr. DeNicola and MDNR, in the same manner they did with Stephanie Boyles Griffin of HSUS.

Staff provided an update on timelines including confirmation of the October 24th City Council work session for review of the White Buffalo Proposal. There was also discussion regarding when Council would take final action on the proposal. Staff indicated that the two possible options were November 10th at a regular meeting or possible a special meeting November 14th. Also, that White Buffalo would be attending the October 24th workshop and would be requested to attend the evening it went to Council.

There was strong sentiment expressed that the number of deer proposed to be culled be reduced from the 100 identified in the proposal. There was consensus of the group representatives that the number

should be no more than last year's cull and the City agree to recommend a reduction in each year going forward. Staff indicated that they are not going to dictate to the White Buffalo as part of their proposal what the number should be. Staff requested White Buffalo propose a modest recommendation for a first year combined lethal and surgical sterilization program that they believed fit with the known information. Staff was not comfortable arbitrarily selecting a number different from White Buffalo's proposal. It was clarified that the City could dictate that number if it chose to, but was not comfortable doing so.

There was continued discussion regarding the map and the most recent survey response into smaller geographical areas. The group indicated that it may help narrow the focus of the operations to areas where there is increased resident concern. Staff continued to investigate the option and to discuss with White Buffalo the relevance of the data and if it would help them focus their proposal or implementation plan. Also, there was discussion regarding the ability of the City to track complaints going forward. The City's existing complaint tracking system deals exclusively with issues in the public roadway or City owned property. All received complaints are able to be investigated, and verified before action is taken. The ability to validate a complaint when received was debated as a concern. Staff expressed concern that any data collected needed to be validated if it was going to be used in making recommendations. It was agreed that staff would continue to investigate the option.

A small amount of discussion occurred regarding the project budget. There was also some discussion on the possibility of placing warning signage at sites of known deer crossings and accidents as well as cutting the underbrush in these areas and improving visibility. Staff stated that there are no plans to ask asking for culling in the 10 parks that were removed in January 2016 from the original list of 24. Staff

The Staff expressed that the desire is to reduce and eventually eliminate the need to cull deer.