

Non-Lethal Deer Management Meeting

Date: October 5, 2016

Location: City Hall

In Attendance:

Derek Delacourt	City of Ann Arbor
Tom Crawford	City of Ann Arbor (Late Arrival)
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 continue discussions regarding the data plan and proposed objectives for the program. Update the group on timelines for Council consideration and where the proposal is in the review process.

Meeting Summary

The meeting initiated with discussion regarding deer/car crashes and how the City is collecting and reviewing the data. Staff explained that a map was being created from the actual UD10 forms of both the Michigan State Police and the Ann Arbor PD. Staff indicated that the map would be provided for consideration upon completion.

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 WB would be attending the October 24th workshop.

The review process for a research permit with the MDNR was discussed. It was noted that the draft proposal was also sent to the MDNR for their initial review. Also, that the MDNR had provided some comments and were in discussion with White Buffalo and City staff about what additional information would be needed for the proposal.

Staff was asked if survey data/results would be mapped at a block or lower level for review. Staff indicated that it was possible but had not requested the work be completed and was investigating what the value of the data would be. Members of the group continued to request that the City develop a method of tracking complaints related to deer damage done in the City, specifically on private property.

The group stressed that the purpose is to match deer management efforts to the general locations where complaints originate and agreed that confidentiality is important. Staff indicated that it may be possible but it would be difficult to develop a process to collect the complaints and to verify the data. It was something staff indicated it would investigate but was not recommending at this time. Therefore, it was requested that the city tabulate any data they have including past citizen complaints and staff complaints from the parks department. It was also suggest that instead of resident addresses, large dots be placed on a map simply to show the approximate location of complaints in order to understand where the problem areas are.

The final data plan and program objectives were reviewed with the group, there were several minor revisions agreed to. (Certain other revisions that were previously proposed were not incorporated into the document.) The group agreed that subject to the changes it was acceptable to move it forward to City Council. The group and city discussed the objective that the combined lethal/non-lethal program could eventually result in minimizing long-term culling.

The last topic was an update on the ordinance revision associated with the upcoming deer management activities. It was explained to the group that the Attorney's office would be bringing forward a set of ordinance revisions to allow both the cull and any non-lethal activities to go forward. Members of the group indicated that it may be preferred that a moratorium similar to last year's was preferred to actual Ordinance amendments. Staff indicated that was a legal issue and could be discussed with City Council but that the Attorney's office did not recommend using repeated moratoriums to suspend the ordinance requirements.