



Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday November 7th, 2019
6:00 pm, Regular Meeting
City Hall (Council Chambers)

Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm. Those in attendance are: Dave Belin, Erin Frazier, Josh Kuhn, Luke Arrington, Allison Hamm, Lynn Riedel, and Roger Caruso.

Items from the Public

Grant Swift

PDogs - they do what they do. Natural settings provide checks and balances to their population. In urban setting, the PDogs do what they always do, but predators don't. Parasites, plague and predators.

If we dust: we are getting rid of a natural control. Example -

I would encourage you to take advantage of the control methods we have. Become the predator, use the control methods the black footed ferret program and raptor program can use.

Ann Huggins - 670 Gooseberry Court from PDAWG committee

Response to Grant

We are pushing wildlife out in Colorado and in Lafayette. It is important for us to take a holistic approach in collaboration with me. We need to collaborate, use OS for wildlife, not just ag and trails.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Erin Frazier to approve the October 2019 minutes. Luke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Topics for Discussion

PDAWG Advisory Working Group Recommendations to Council

-holding until PDAWG representative shows up

(notes are now from when all members were here)

Discussing the three recommendations that relate to the LOSAC-led PDog management plan

-Remove CO2 from lethal control

-Remove the recommendation of donating to the program

Looking for a motion from LOSAC. Don't have to agree. Hope is that it can go to the Nov. 19 council meeting.

Specifically commenting and discussing A and B. C and D are for a future session.

Deb Johnson from PDAWG sharing. Starting with the genesis of the recommendation. American Vet Association - and also Humane Society of United States. There is a reason that BoCo uses the PERC machines (Carbon Monoxide). Broomfield strongly encourage use of the PERC machines as well. In the materials that were sent - in very small concentrations animals begin to panic/react to the CO2 as opposed to carbon monoxide.

Also, a lot of people look at the ferret and raptor programs. Still a dead animal at the end of the process. Taking away more of their food source in the wild. How do we balance these competing interests. BoCo takes PDogs to the ferret program. The PDogs would be in quarantine for up to 21 days. They've upgraded their process for quarantine at the ferret program.

Birds of Prey program does take PDogs... all programs have told her over the years that they will take the dogs. Not the preferred food.

They argue that it is deceptive that it's a feel-good end, not a true alternative.

Looks towards the most humane way... it's easy to ignore animals dying underground, or being trapped to then be killed.

BF Ferret program may have changes come down the pipe.

Questions for Deb -

-appreciate the information

-thank you for the dedication to the issue

Reflect on how they are a unique species to America. If we want to release ferrets at Rocky Flats, we need to make sure that there is actually a food source there for them.

?: If we removed the PDogs from the ferret program, how would that impact the ferret program.

A: removing ourselves from the program would not have a large impact. Many programs (including BoCo) donate. They use them frozen, and also use them to train the ferrets for hunting.

?: If we set a precedent, and other communities follow, how would we impact?

A: Unlikely others will follow, but do we want to be a leader in that space.

LOSAC: The ferret program has shared with us that they're actively seeking prairie dogs.

PDAWG felt that they're making a recommendation from the stance of a leadership role.

A: Yes, all of these programs will tell you that they'll take the PDogs. But is it really the best use of them?

?: Is Carbon Monoxide just used in burrows? Or are the dogs removed and then it's used?

A: Not usually.

Often questioned how many did they actually donate? It's often a small amount.

?: Do the lethal control methods kill everything in the burrows?

A: Yes. Trapping for relocation and/or donation gives control of this.

A: Aluminum Phosphide is a terrible death

Don't use the CO2 in burrows

City Council in Longmont opted to remove donation to (follow up on the Longmont municipal code, as an alternate does allow for ferret program)

Recommendation / guidelines

So - the recommendations from PDAWG under consideration.

Discuss A & B together or discuss separately. Discuss them together - it makes sense.

Member insight:

Put into the record some information from discussing with the programs:

- Black footed program is actively seeking donations

- They are active in eight western states, and three counties with

Rocky Mountain Raptor Recovery program - spoke w/Rehab Coordinator

- actively in search of of donations, and the most natural food source that could be provided

- feels it's a good source of resources, better than dying in burrows

BOP in Broomfield

- do accept PDogs, and appreciate the donations, only permit the use of CO2

Understand the desire to be humane, we endorse the idea of relocation but it seems to rarely be an option, can we put the PDogs to good use. It's hard to determine the line - this is nature, it's not always fun.

Have a problem saying with taking a leadership role, consider all the factors, not just the most humane way to kill a prairie dog

Have missed some of the past history. Don't have strong opinions on it personally. Not in favor of taking methods of control off the plate. Encroachment is a challenge.

Recommendation is a caveat "use until there is no longer a recovery program need." Gives us a flexibility, and lets us follow their lead. Also, can we ask for proof of donation.

Appreciation for the dedication from the group and desire for humane treatment. Believe our policy has treated us well. Lethal control is always the last option, and we have eliminated the egregious chemical controls as an option. This provides a model for private entities to follow within our city limits. One of our concerns is that we eliminate CO2, this is the model that we put forward, I have concerns that developers and private citizens can easily choose options that are very inhumane. Unsure how it would play out, but it's a concern.

We've heard that people feel it's a inhumane method, and when you read the veterinary information, there are ways that are successful to do this, but it needs to be very carefully controlled.

We make a contribution through donation, and we make a big contribution through our public lands. Go through the hierarchy, and when you make it to that last step no-one likes it.

Intrigued by the idea that maybe we amend, hesitate to remove options from the policy.

A lot of what we've talked about I agree with, we don't want to use lethal control. I support the suite of options and a hierarchy. Hesitant to take the options off the table, and there are some positive outcomes from the end stage of the policy. Hesitant to take options off the table. I would like to keep the CO2 as one of the options on the list knowing that the dogs that can be used.

This committee has a history of carefully considering this topic
Our recommendations came after public testimony, and discussion with the people who are charged
Govern how the live trapping is being done
Ask for a receipting from the program
Impact on the environment in the big picture

Some of the comments tonight should go straight into the Ordinance development process
-what's the plan for humane trapping
-receipts from the receiving sites
-following the lead of receiving programs

We didn't talk about water flushing. Is there anything should we know? Considered part of humane controls.

A motion was made by Dave moves that LOSAC recommends that CO2 and donation remain in the policy. Erin seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

A motion was made by Erin for LOSAC to recommend that documentation of donation to receiving sites is obtained and is considered as a condition of satisfaction for contracts - as well as adherence to a standard of humane treatment in the trapping process - and that this should be considered for City ordinance and policy updates. Alison seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

A motion was made by Josh to recommend that the City continues to assess the need for prairie dog donation at Wildlife Recovery Programs. Dave seconds that motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Continuing discussion -

List of approved relocators list needs to be built in conjunction with staff, along with a list of recommended contractors. If the City had this they could they share it with private parties. Should be in the hands of staff. PDAWG will build the list, followed up by staff, and then set as an addenda or attachment to the policy (will then be automatically shared). List of preferred vendors.

Great to get input from the working group on SOP and updates for the passive relocation, these should be in the hands of staff. We could dig into the other agencies recommendations, and staff should be able to shape this for the City.

Concern of the use of dusting - don't recommend an annual dusting, don't want to use pesticide more widely in the City. There are many invertebrate species, and will affect non-target species as well fleas. If used repeatedly, the pesticides will become ineffective. Understand the dusting of a sending site, but should not pre-emptively dust. Don't discount invertebrates, especially in our natural open lands. Concerns about using Delta Dust except in very specific cases.

Response from PDAWG - dusting is specific, targeted, and only at certain times of the year.

The group discussed whether or not to hold a December meeting. The consensus was to hold a December meeting as there is a lot to discuss and it'll make up for the meeting missed in July.

A motion was made by Allison to have a meeting in Dec. 5 (first Thurs) Luke seconds. Motion passes.

Staff Report

Rob had a family emergency and had to miss the November meeting therefore Staff Report was postponed.

Member Updates

Erin updated attending the Comp Plan meeting.

Lynn attended the POSAC meeting. Agenda including approving the funds for Waneka. Ended up testifying. At the same meeting there was an agenda item - reporting on eBikes. Something she didn't know, that the State is requiring when cities and counties consider and do rule-making they consider eScooters at the same time. There is lobbying happening to try and separate these. Reported on a yearlong study. There was a report that may be good for us to reference, and contained interesting findings. Considering three different proposals of how they examine the exclusion motorized vehicles.

Next Agenda - Dec. 5

December 5th, 2019 is the next LOSAC meeting

Topics include:

- PROS Master Plan
- BoCo trails and OS requests
- Wildlife Plan RFP
- Maybe Martin Ogle?

Adjournment

A motion was made by Erin to adjourn. Alison seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson_____ Date_____

Asst. to the Director_____ Date _____