

**CITY OF BURLINGTON  
PARKS, ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE**

**Councilor Joe Magee, Chair, Ward 3  
Councilor Ali Dieng, Ward 7  
Councilor Mark Barlow, North District**

Staff: Holli Bushnell, Office Assistant  
Lakeview Cemetery  
[hbushnell@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:hbushnell@burlingtonvt.gov)

**AGENDA**

**Parks, Arts and Culture DOG TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEE Meeting**

Wednesday, May 22, 2023 5:00pm – 7:00pm

**MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM ONLY**

PACC Dog Task Force Meeting

Monday, May 22nd, 2023

5:30pm – 7pm

VIRTUAL ONLY

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/96237182773>

Or One tap mobile :

+19292056099,,96237182773# US (New York)

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Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

**Agenda:**

- Public Forum, 5:35pm
- Next Meeting Confirmation
- Final Report Timeline
- Sub-Committee Updates
- Continue Ordinance Review

## PACC Dog Task Force Meeting

Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30pm – 7pm

Virtual

In attendance: Maria Karunungan, Lori Kettler, Kyle Tansley, Abbey Duke, Meghan O'Daniel, Joanne Kalisz, Jake Schumann, Ilona Blanchard, Cindi Wight

### 5:35pm, Public Comment

Nicole Gagne was present for the public comment. She just wanted to know if there were other ways we were collecting data than the off-leash survey. She continued that she's in opposition of the off-leash survey. She didn't feel like it was written in a way that she could really get her thoughts and feelings across.

Kalisz shared that she also has concerns about the off-leash survey and will do her best to advocate for the best places for off-leash dogs.

Gagne continued that what made her think of the dog task force after her negative and traumatic experience at Leddy, she was trying to explain why it was unsafe for dogs to be off-leash and the other person actually admitted that she was "an ignorant dog owner". Gagne is hoping for general educational information.

Karunungan shared that the task force are looking into other sources for information other than the survey and that this is very important.

Gagne thanked

Public Comment ended at 5:40pm.

Karunungan then went into the rest of the agenda, confirming the time of the next meeting. The consensus was that Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm worked for a majority of the group.

She continued that tonight's meeting would focus on the ordinance, but that she is having doubts that we will be able to complete the recommendations by the June meeting. She asked if we should continue on or take a short break for the summer and then reconvene in September.

Kettler thought reconvening in September would be better. But is open to continuing through the summer if that's what the majority of the group would like to do. She shared that her biggest concern is figuring out the timeline/deadline.

Kalisz shared that she would be willing to have more meetings between now and June to complete everything. She continued that she works better with more frequent check-ins.

Karunungan offered to meet with Kalisz more frequently and reminded her that there are sub-committees meeting in between the main meetings and that the background work wouldn't pause.

Blanchard shared that she could go either way. Schumann shared the same.

Karunungan summarized that it seemed like the consensus was that people were comfortable continuing to meet throughout the summer.

Kettler agreed, but asked that we set a new deadline for the final draft report.

Karunungan agreed. She shared that this time we will focus on the ordinance, the next meeting we will go over the off-leash data and police data and if there's time, reporting and enforcement and discussing the recommendations we want to make from all of that. And that July will be other recommendations and organizing the final report. And August would be really hashing out the details of the final report and September would be used to review the draft report and October would be used to finalize the report.

Blanchard asked if the June meeting could be recorded. O'Daniel and Karunungan said yes!

Blanchard asked if we want to get public input on the final draft.

Karunungan agreed and shared that we should strategize and get public input in July.

Karunungan went to the next agenda item of sub-committee sharing. She asked Kalisz to begin.

Kalisz shared that the police data that she is going through is taking a lot more time than she thought, and is still on 2019 data. She is still entering and coding things and is hoping to get some support. She is seeing a trend that most of the reports are concerned citizens with the dog ending up being fine.

Kettler's original hope for the police data was that it would support our recommendation for a dedicated Animal Control Officer for the City. She's not sure how useful the data will actually be for that, but thinks it will be helpful to have overall.

Kalisz thinks it could be useful for the education committee as well – what should be reported and when.

Karunungan is also curious about the resolution side of the data.

Kalisz shared that unfortunately there aren't many actual resolutions. For example, there are a lot of reports of "dog in vehicle" and a majority of the resolutions are that the vehicle is gone or that the dog appears fine or that the owner returned to the vehicle as the officer arrived.

Kettler chimed in that it sounds like we may have some additional recommendations for reporting and record keeping.

Karunungan shared that the off-leash subcommittee has been meeting and reviewing the preliminary results. The most time consuming piece has been going through the qualitative data and assigning themes to the answers. Preliminary she feels that the results are very divided and is seemingly very evenly split at this point.

She continued and pivoted to the continuation of the ordinance discussion. She thanked the members of the group who went into the shared document and made comments.

Kettler began by sharing that she updated the exotic animal section by expanding that definition to exclude animals like guinea pigs etc. That was the only substantive change she has made since the last meeting.

Karunungan shared that Schumann, Hurley and herself had made comments off-line before the meeting. She began sharing her screen, showing the shared google doc where everyone has been making comments.

She continued by asking if the new definition of “exotic animals” represented people’s thoughts from the last meeting.

Kettler suggested we let City Council amend it if they see fit when they review it.

Karunungan agreed and thinks this looks good for now, knowing that there may be modifications by City Council and/or the City’s lawyers.

Karunungan continued by sharing the next document.

Kettler shared that most of the comments are from edits that she made a long time ago, so there isn’t a lot of new comments.

Karunungan asked if anyone had any objections to the Dunbar Scale updates.

Kalisz shared that her only concern is making sure that this makes the difference between aggressive bites vs. non-aggressive bites.

Karunungan responded that in a legal definition there might not be room for that. But that what is important is the extent of damage that is caused to the other person or dog. Safety is the biggest concern here – a well-trained dog will use their mouth responsibly. Going off of the injury will be clearer than the presumed intent of a dog.

Kettler asked if everyone was on board with changing the terminology from “owner” to “guardian”. Everyone agreed.

Karunungan then asked if anyone had objections to the addition of “identification”.

No one did.

Karunungan continued with the addition of cat sterilization.

Blanchard shared that she was unsure because we’re not also requiring that of dog owners.

Schumann asked if we could add some language to this that breeders need to be licensed.

Kalisz shared the idea that this could be part of an educational campaign.

Karunungan commented that this is a very complex topic and we say we’re still discussing this. She continued to the next section.

Schumann recommended that we consider having some flexibility with the term “service animal” for accessibility purposes.

Kettler chimed in that the group may be getting into the weeds a bit.

Karunungan noted the time and stated for the record that the group stopped the discussion at 5.16C and that the conversation would continue offline.

The meeting was adjourned by Karunungan at 7pm.