

MINUTES OF THE LACEY CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

6:00 P.M. – 7:18 P.M.

REMOTE AND IN-PERSON

To hear the full discussion of a specific topic, or the complete meeting, watch the recorded meeting available on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0Xo7Ljs-Ks&list=PL0fgffnajtWBqkRa1WltEuNIBbJrDieggp&index=1>

COUNCIL PRESENT: MAYOR RYDER, DEPUTY MAYOR MILLER, COUNCILMEMBERS COX, GREENSTEIN, STEADMAN (REMOTE), AND VAZQUEZ

COUNCIL EXCUSED: COUNCILMEMBERS GREENSTEIN AND KUNKEL

STAFF PRESENT: S. SPENCE, S. KELLEY-FONG, D. SCHNEIDER, R. WALK, R. ANDREWS, J. BAUERSFELD, S. HOCK, E. FONTAINE

ACTION: APPROVE WORKSESSION AGENDA

MOTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED BY COUNCILMEMBERS COX AND VAZQUEZ

LACEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

STAFF: JENNY BAUERSFELD, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

In 2017, the Lacey City Council (Council) approved a \$25,000 budget for the Lacey Neighborhood Grant Program (LNGP), to encourage neighborhood activities that foster community pride, engage community members, and beautify the City.

The community had a positive response to the LNGP and interest quickly grew. In response to this success, in 2019 the Council approved a program budget increase to \$60,000. The current LNGP budget remains the same at \$60,000.

The grant program has proven to be a successful and valued program in Lacey. At the Community Relations & Public Affairs Committee meeting on February 7, 2022, Councilmembers expressed interest in expanding the program to include informal neighborhood groups located in Lacey city limits. In addition, the program could also introduce some new project categories, such as:

- Neighborhood Art & Monument structures
- Expand National Night Out Events
- Encourage Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) organization
- Educate neighborhoods on xeriscaping and irrigation rebate programs for water saving efforts

Based on past Council guidance, staff will update the 2023 Grant Program Overview & Guidelines to include informal neighborhoods within the City, as well as expand grant categories.

Council inquired about a budget update, in order to increase the \$60,000 limit. Staff advised that a budget amendment could be brought back to Council if a need is identified.

COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAM

STAFF: SARAH HOCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOINT ANIMAL SERVICES

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

The Joint Animal Services Commission (JASCOM) recommends updating definitions and language in the Lacey Municipal Code to support a new, lifesaving cat program at Joint Animal Services (JAS), called the Community Cat Program (CCP).

With this program, staff will proactively work to educate the public regarding humane and responsible co-existence and care of pet and community cats, to include:

- Education on the benefits and resources for spay/neuter and vaccination;
- Responsible feeding and management practices for those choosing to care for community cats; and
- Effective methods to humanely deter and exclude animals from homes, structures, and targeted areas.

JAS will be partnering with Best Friends Animal Society (Best Friends) on the implementation of the CCP across all jurisdictions in Thurston County. Specifically, Best Friends will be supporting JAS with funding and training for this program.

Highlights of the CCP include:

- Limits cat overpopulation over time.
- They're humane. CCP saves the lives of cats that would otherwise be euthanized.

- Reduce nuisance complaints by eliminating behaviors caused by un-altered cats.
- Reduce the burden on shelters and animal control agencies both in cost and labor to care for the animals.
- They have public support. [Research by Alley Cat Allies](#) on the humane treatment of community cats found that 80% of Americans support allowing community cats to live out their lives rather than being trapped and killed.

JASCOM recommends updating definitions and language to the City of Lacey municipal code to support a new, lifesaving cat program at Joint Animal Services (JAS), called the Community Cat Program (CCP). The following changes (in red) are being requested by JASCOM and JAS to aid in this life-saving program.

Definitions additions:

7.04.030 Definitions.

***Community cat** means any free roaming cat that may be cared for by one or more residents in the area, known or unknown. Community cats with ears-tipped were sterilized and vaccinated against rabies at least one time. Community cats are not considered pet animals.*

***Community cat caregiver** means a person who provides care to a community cat in the form of food, water, shelter and veterinary care, while not being considered the owner, custodian, harbinger, possessor, or keeper of a community cat.*

Language changes:

7.04.040 Licensing and registration requirements.

A. Failure to License ~~a Dog or Cat~~ *a pet animal*. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to own, keep or have control of any dog or cat *considered a pet animal* in the city of Lacey unless the person has procured a license. Failure to license a pet animal is a civil infraction. If a person is charged with a violation, the person shall not be determined to have committed an infraction if the person produces within fourteen days of the date of issuance proof of licensing or registering of the subject dog or cat under this subsection to either the court clerk or Lacey violations bureau. The court or violations bureau at the direction of the court may assess court administrative costs of \$25.00 at the time of dismissal.

Council expressed support for the recommended changes. The changes will be presented to the full Council for action at a future regular meeting.

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL STATUS UPDATE

STAFF: RICK WALK, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Over the last several months, the Regional Housing Council (RHC) has been deliberating a new governance structure.

Rick Walk, Community & Economic Development Director, reviewed the proposed interim structure. The interim structure is intended to be in place until an independent structure can be created. The proposed funding and policy cycles were also highlighted in detail. Further discussions are pending on voting and non-voting memberships. A majority of Council expressed support in recommendation of a non-voting member, unless proper ethical protocols are in place.

Staff advised the City will need to memorialize a new Intergovernmental Agreement if the RHC adopts a change in the governance structure. Final conversations are expected to occur within the next 1-2 months.