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WILDLIFE CONTROL
MEETING MINUTES

July 30, 2007
7:30 p.m.

Village Green, 47 Hall Street

Attendees: Tom Counts, Dan Wiencek, Steve Lutz and Gary Vest

Steve Lutz informed those present that the purpose of this evening's meeting was to gather information regarding recent coyote sightings in the Ashmoore subdivision. He stated that the City had received proposals to trap coyotes. He also mentioned that the Ohio Wildlife Center and Preservation Parks of Delaware County have been contacted in order to provide advice on this matter.

Dan Gonzalez, 384 Nathan Drive stated he was concerned that suburban coyotes are different and that they fear humans less than other coyotes.

Gary Thompson, 427 Nathan Drive stated a coyote a fawn in early June and believes action needs to be taken in regard to coyotes.

Mike Mockler, 447 Nathan Drive informed those present that his dog had been attacked by a coyote last month.

William Canfield, 448 Wooten Court S stated he has never seen a coyote in the neighborhood.

Michael Marchiondo, 450 Keisel Court commented that there were a large number of missing cats within the neighborhood.

Dave Hoy, Ohio Wildlife Center stated he sympathized with the residents regarding this issue. He informed those present that there are numerous coyotes in our environment. He stated that they were primarily nocturnal animals and that 90% of their diet consisted of rodents. He emphasized that it is prudent for residents to remove all food and water sources such as open garbage containers, to utilize outdoor light sensors, and not to allow household pets to be out alone at night. He emphasized that coyotes are an important part of the natural eco-system and that what is being experienced in their neighborhood is experienced across America. He stated that the Ohio Wildlife Center believes that man should live in harmony with nature. He stated that the good news is there has never been a documented human attack by a coyote in Ohio and that nationally there has only been one documented human attack.

Jackie Brown, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, informed residents that it is important to teach children how to interact with an animal. Children must treat all animals whether it is a dog, cat or coyote with respect. She stated that coyotes help to slow the growth of the deer population. They also help to control the rabies problem by reducing the rodent population.

A resident who lives in Wedgewood Park in Liberty Township inquired as to what keeps the coyote population in check? Jackie Brown stated that a coyote's territory is often times based on the abundance of food in an area. She stated that if you eliminate the coyotes within the territory more will move into the area because of the availability of a food source. She stated that the most important thing residents can do is to eliminate the coyotes' food and water source.

Paula Jones, Ashmoore, stated she has outdoor lights and a sprinkler system but is still concerned about coyotes.

Mike Sidel, Ohio Wildlife Center stated he would like to offer his services, free of charge, to the residents of Ashmoore. He stated he would like to visit with the residents and spend time in the neighborhood in order to assess what can be done to minimize coyotes.

Dr. Donald Burke, Ohio Wildlife Center stated that governments spend millions and millions of dollars each year in order to hunt coyotes. He stated the end result of this has been an actual increase in coyotes because those that survive tend to produce larger litters. He stated that it is just a fact that man and coyotes must co-exist.

Dan Wiencek stated that in Powell a great deal of time and effort has gone into preserving large woodlands as part of subdivisions. He stated that these woodlands do serve as good homes for wildlife. Dan encouraged the residents to take advantage of Mr. Sidel's offer to spend time in the neighborhood and assess the problem at hand.

Tom Counts asked Gary Vest as to what the City's policy is regarding trapping of wild animals? Chief Vest responded that City Ordinances prohibit the trapping of animals. He commented that this prohibition is fairly common in suburbs such as Powell. Some traps are inhumane to animals there is always a risk of injuring children or domesticated animals in traps. He commented that an unskilled trapper can do more harm than good. Chief Vest stated if trapping were to be permitted in the City he would recommend it be done so through a licensed trapper who is bonded, insured and regularly checks his traps.

Dan Wiencek informed the group that the City had received costs for trapping and that trapping can become costly over time.

Tom Counts inquired as to what is the natural predator of the coyote? Jackie Brown stated wolves, mountain lions, bears and automobiles are the most common predators of coyotes.

Dan Wiencek stated if the City were to pursue trapping where is the best place to locate the traps? Jackie Brown stated that the success rate of trapping coyotes is fairly low.

David Hoy once again offered the services of the Ohio Wildlife Center to the residents and the City. He stated they would be able to spell out specific things that could be done instead of considering the trapping option.

Michael Marchiondo stated he was fine with this offer but also wanted to permit trapping on their private property in order to make residents feel better.

Michael Mockler stated a farmer in northern Delaware County contacted him and suggested setting out a bowl of antifreeze in order to kill the coyotes. Several people informed him about the dangers of taking such action in Powell.

Scott Lindsay, a City resident stated he was opposed to any changes to the City's trapping restrictions or gun discharge laws. He stated he felt he was part of the silent majority who believe that man and the wild must co-exist with each other. He stated that people move to Powell because of its rural, rustic neighborhoods and nature preserves. He stated that utilizing taxpayer dollars for trapping is a waste of money and hopes that the City Council takes the advice of the experts and not to over react to this issue.

Tom Counts expressed concerns that even if the City of Powell were to take some sort of action regarding coyotes that it may have a minimal impact on their population because other areas outside of the City are not doing anything.

Dan Wiencek re-emphasized to the group that tonight was an information gathering meeting and that no actions will be taken tonight. He stated there would be subsequent meetings between Staff and the Committee and this matter would be discussed at a future City Council meeting. He stated he anticipated that there would be some incremental easy issues that could be enacted by the City in a relatively short period of time. He commented that it might be worthwhile to look into having the City dispose of carcasses found in resident's yards.

Lisa Lisle asked what you should do if a child were to be captured by a coyote. Dr. Burke stated that if a bold coyote were to approach a child, the best thing for the child or parents to make noise, waive their arms and kick the coyote if need be. He stated the coyote will not approach a human unless it is used to being fed by one.

A resident from the Liberty Hills subdivision stated that coyotes have been in the area for a number of years and that it is not possible to focus on one area to get rid of them. She encouraged that man and wild coexist with each other.

A City of Delaware resident who is a retired teacher commented that it is important to teach kids at a young age and make noise and assert themselves with a stick if they ever were to be approached by a coyote.

Powell resident Paula Zeibarth expressed concerns if the City begins to trap coyotes that there could be more bachelor male coyotes left in the neighborhoods who would act more aggressive than they currently do.

Jackie Brown stated that it is possible that there is a brazen group of coyotes in Ashmoore at the present time. She stated that if this was the case, it might be necessary to eliminate the one brazen group.

Tom Counts concluded the meeting and stated that further investigation will be made into many of the comments and suggestions discussed at the meeting.

Having no further business to come before the group, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.