

Monday, October 16, 2023

Section 305 Workgroup Meeting

In Attendance: Mark Rudder, Cheri Wischmeyer, Stephanie Johnson, Trampus Mansker, Linda Wolfe-Buchanan, Claudia Hauser, b j ratlief, planner

Mary Phelps was absent.

Meeting agenda:

1. Discussion: Emails and other public input being forwarded to workgroup?
2. Discussion: DRAFT General criteria section
3. Discussion: DRAFT Youth Permit section
4. Discussion: DRAFT Nuisance Section (perhaps preview of this section and hold for next meeting?)

Introduction:

Town planner b j ratlief opened the meeting at 5:30 PM

She passed out a packet to the group with preliminary text for 3 portions of the ordinance which she wanted to cover before delving into the actual point system. These sections are: general criteria, youth permit, and nuisance.

Before delving into discussion of the actual ordinance sections, Ms. Ratlief advised the group she had received several emails which the sender(s) requested be forwarded to the workgroup. She asked the group how they wanted such emails handled.

After some discussion, it was decided amongst the group that while they do care about public input, they do not want to be bombarded with opinions on this ordinance, as there are many passionate people on both sides. As part of the discussion, it was recognized there will be many opportunities for public input into the process, however this was not yet that time. Therefore, they requested Ms. Ratlief hold such emails, print them and have them available at the beginning of each meeting. Members then can take copies if they want, or not – but they would be available to members should members chose to receive such emails.

Ordinance Discussion:

The following sections were discussed in broad parameters – notes were taken to incorporate many of these ideas into DRAFT text of the future ordinance:

1. General Criteria
2. Nuisance

3. Youth Permit (note: *They did not get into detailed discussion of the Youth Permit section as the time was mostly taken up with general criteria and nuisance issues).

-

These topics led to much discussion amongst the group which only tangentially touched on the animal point system.

The discussions included the following topics. It is important to note, no decisions were made. The discussion was all preliminary and general in nature and scope, but will be providing foundational understanding for the crafting of the actual ordinance.

- Types of animals on properties and their designated points per weight and maintenance needed;
- The need to include veterinarian/expert information into the ordinance;
- Agricultural district/zone;
- Allowing individuals to exceed the animal count based on special circumstances, possible use permits, but with specific stipulations to keep nuisances in mind;
- Care and cleanliness of animals and the property they reside;
- Creating ordinances that are both fair to those who take care of their property and do so in a respectful and neighborly way, and those who don't care for their property;
- Market animal purchasing in our rural area, as opposed to traveling outside the Verde Valley to purchase animals for youth projects;
- Youth 4H and possible special permits for raising animals, with strict parameters;
- Arenas and the current ordinance;
- Boarding animals within the town and could categories be created to allow for boarding?;
- Sharing animal points with neighbors – when permissible and when not (i.e. private leasing of property);
- Town events and the need to offer guests places for their animals on a short-term basis;
- Disposal of animal manure, as it stands there is nowhere to locally do this, increasing animal count will come with more manure;
- Mulching manure and the stipulations around it;
- Expected timeframe to clean and sanitize property;

The work group discussed the need to define and state each part of this ordinance properly, taking into consideration all sides and to be fair and relevant. They came to a good starting point to start working on these sections of the ordinance, but are not ready to publish any drafts.

Additionally, the group briefly discussed the findings of their redlines of the existing ordinance.

It was discussed to try and put together some Field Trips to see some properties firsthand, but to do so in a respectful and organized manner.

Meeting Schedule:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 7th at 5:30 P.M.

Ms. Ratlief asked the Workgroup to continue looking into and adding on to these sections-topics before the next meeting.

Meeting notes were taken and will be uploaded-published to this site:

<https://www.campverde.az.gov/departments/community-development/planning-zoning>

Closing:

The meeting closed at 7:32.