

Meeting Summary 10/13/09

Next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 4 at: 6:30 pm- location to be determined.

Part 1, will give detailed information that Carl presented that addresses city departments concerns for changing the ordinance. Part 2, is a rough list of the information we would like to include in the ordinance. Part 3, will cover the action items people volunteered for last night/ items still needing volunteers.

Part 1

Carl Caneva presented information about the city's concerns for allowing backyard chickens. He met with several city departments to gather their feedback about changing the ordinance. Below taken verbatim from a document Carl provided me:

1. Health and Human Services

- Initial concerns regarding Avian Influenza have been addressed. The chickens will need to be cared for in such a way that they do not mingle with wild birds. This will limit disease transmission.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control, salmonella transferred from chickens and eggs to their caregivers occurs if proper hand washing does not take place. The Department has suggested providing education to all residents if a permit or license is issued.
- What method will be used to register, permit or license the coups or the chickens individually?
- Feed must be stored in a rat proof container.

2. Building Department/ Property Standards Division

- Noise and sanitation complaints will be addressed with current nuisance ordinances.
- The chicken coups will most likely be defined as accessory structures and will need to be maintained.

3. Building Department/ Zoning Division

- Many of the cities that have allowed chickens also require informing neighbors of the intention to keep chickens, and they are allowed to comment on their concerns. Staff indicated a similar requirement would probably be made of Evanston Residents.
- There will be setback requirements, regulating the chickens to a certain distance from property lines.

4. Police Department/ Animal Control

- How will chickens that escape their coup or yard be addressed? There is no current space in the City of Evanston Animal Shelter set aside for chickens.
- With regard to the health and welfare of chickens, is there a space requirement per chicken, more directly there needs to be a limit to the number of chickens at a property.

Consensus by all attendees was reached that the ban should continue to include roosters and extend to prohibit the slaughter of chickens.

The above are the initial concerns by the divisions or departments and are not to be considered a final determination about the keeping of chickens at residences in the City of Evanston. As the process moves forward to amend the City of Evanston's ordinance(s) more concerns may need to be addressed.

Part 2

Based on limited information about other cities chicken ordinances we came up with a working list of items we would include in an Evanston's ordinance.

- No more than 3-4 chickens
- No rooster
- A permit would be required per coop
- Chickens must be kept in a coop or fenced yard.
- No slaughter of chickens within city limits.
- Setback requirement from permit/domicile line? (not sure of distance yet)
- Feed must be stored in rat proof container
- Ordinance confined to chickens (poultry)

Here is a link to the document we based this criterion off of: "Residential Urban Chicken Keeping: An Examination of 25 Cities".

http://media.timesfreepress.com/docs/2009/01/Ordinance_research_paper.pdf

Part 3

Below is a list of projects people volunteered for.

- Research existing ordinances throughout the country. *(I forgot to write down who was doing this. Let me know who was nice enough to volunteer for this).*
- Petition gathering at farmer's market- *Angela Allyn and family.*
- Web page with information about our group – *Aharon Solomon*

Action Items for everyone:

- Spread the word to your neighbors, and friends about backyard chickens
- Speak to your local alderman