



**COLUMBIA HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Aditi Bussells, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Aditi Bussells	Chair	Present	
Howard E. Duvall	Member	Present	
Edward H. McDowell	Member	Present	

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Update on Community Health Initiatives - Ms. Angela Jenkins, Vice President, Office of Community and Social Health / Prisma Health

Ms. Angela Jenkins, Vice President, Office of Community and Social Health/ Prisma Health provided an update on Prisma Health's community health initiatives. To create a better state of health, Prisma Health is focused on six goals for the Fiscal Years of 2022-2025: health equity and community engagement; an integrated Prisma Health system; technology that improves outcomes, lowers costs, and increases engagement; affordable, convenient care; subspecialty and precision medicine; and moving the needle on health outcomes and value. Some of the community and social health services available include a Diabetes Prevention Program, Healthy Start: Midlands, and mobile health services.

There was a discussion about states accepting Medicare expansion, how the data looks at interaction with community issues, the mobile services program, collaborating with other healthcare entities, and having further conversations about equity.

Ms. Angela Jenkins, Vice President, Office of Community and Social Health/ Prisma Health said 20% of healthcare is within the healthcare system, the rest is in the community. Healthcare organizations are accountable for improving health outcomes, lowering costs, and providing value and equity. We learned from COVID that there is power of the trusted messenger. After COVID, we pulled away from that. There are ways of leveraging community members in a trusted way and making sure your workforce is reflective of your community. My team reflects the community that we serve but we need to do more. We are working with our marketing team to figure out how we tell our story in a better way.



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2. Differential Licensing - Ms. Victoria Riles, Animal Services Superintendent

Ms. Victoria Riles, Animal Services Superintendent revisited the proposed changes to Sec 4-62 - License for dogs and cats; rabies vaccination. The proposal is to offer a \$25.00 lifetime pet license if the pet is spayed/neutered/vaccinated for rabies and microchipped. If the pet is not spayed/neutered there is a \$100 annual fee. Currently, there is a \$25 annual fee if your pet is not spayed/neutered. The goal is to encourage citizens to spay/neuter. We are still brainstorming how to help owners facing hardship. The ordinance will be effective on January 1, 2024.

There was a discussion about the cost to microchip, enforcement of change in policies, and encouraging Richland County to adopt the same ordinance.

There was consensus of the Committee to endorse the proposed ordinance for City Council's consideration.

3. Boundary Trees – Mr. Brian Neiger, Forestry & Beautification Superintendent

Mr. Brian Neiger, Forestry and Beautification Superintendent detailed current practices related to boundary trees. The city has responsibility for any hazards in the right of way for public, private, or boundary trees. Ownership is determined by tree records, water meter placement, driveway apron distance, and property stakes, if visible. If the tree sits at least 25% over the line, it is a boundary tree. Our records go back 20 years. Most of the boundary trees were planted 50-70 years ago and that's why we use the property stakes to determine ownership of the tree.

There was discussion about what labels a tree as a boundary tree, how ownership pertains to the city of Columbia, and how the Forestry and Beautification Division ensures tree trimming standards are met throughout the city along with Dominion.

Mr. Brian Neiger, Forestry and Beautification Superintendent noted that the city's legal opinion indicated that our current practices are the most defensible.

Dr. Bussells said we can't assume all owners are going to want help with their trees. Are there exceptions where we can have a conversation and work something out?

Councilor Duvall said I have faith in the Forestry Division to be fair with the public and make it look good.



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Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager of Columbia Water said if pruning over the right of way creates an imbalance on the tree and it's going to damage the property, we'll go ahead and prune the tree. We wouldn't create a situation that is detrimental to the homeowner and the pruning process.

There was consensus of the Committee to table any edits to the city's current policy regarding boundary trees.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk