

Mark Eldridge

1869 Iglehart

Mark called the Ward 4 office and stated that he is in opposition to the chicken ordinance. He has a permit for his pigeons and is not allowed to compost their waste. He thinks chickens should have the same regulations.

From: Brian W. Peterson [<mailto:bpeterson3520@comcast.net>]
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 5:59 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Against Proposed Relaxing of Back-Yard Chicken Rules

Jane,

I am writing to urge you to vote against relaxing the current rules for keeping of back-yard chickens. The following article which appeared in this week's Pioneer Press notes changes proposed by Councilwoman Amy Brendmoen to the existing rules.

<http://www.twincities.com/2017/10/18/st-paul-council-member-proposes-simpler-rules-for-backyard-chicken-hobbyists/>

I believe that chickens really have no place within the urban environment because of potential cleanliness and health issues. This is supported to a degree by another article also in this week's Pioneer Press (link below) indicating that chickens can carry and transmit the salmonella virus to humans.

<http://www.twincities.com/2017/10/20/backyard-chicken-trend-causes-spike-in-infections-including-a-fatal-one/>

Therefore I do not wish to see it made easier to raise chickens in neighborhood back yards.

Thanks for your consideration.

Brian W. Peterson
From: Mary Bruce [<mailto:bruces87@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 5:50 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Request amendment support

Hello Mr. Tolbert,

I would like to encourage you to support the proposed ordinance amendments for backyard chickens. My husband and I live on Hamline Ave, and are in the process of building a small backyard chicken coop. We have toured the backyard coops of various St. Paul neighbors and you would be impressed by the care and devotion homeowners put into their coops and chickens! Chickens are quieter than dogs.

Although we have verbal consent from our neighbors for our coop, we feel it is an unnecessary burden to have to get signatures from everyone who lives around us in order to have two or three hens in our backyard. Please consider supporting the amendment.

Thank you,

Mary and Bob Bruce
428 Hamline Ave S
St Paul, MN 55105

From: Eric Saathoff [<mailto:ericsaathoff@gmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, November 04, 2017 2:04 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1; #CI-StPaul_Ward2; #CI-StPaul_Ward3; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; #CI-StPaul_Ward5; #CI-StPaul_Ward6; #CI-StPaul_Ward7

Subject: Chicken Ordinance

Hello, My name is Eric Saathoff, and I have chickens at my home in the Payne-Phalen neighborhood (Ward 6). I am writing to ask you to support the ordinance allowing up to 6 chickens without needing the approval of neighbors but rather simply by notifying them.

We have a permit for 11 chickens but currently only keep 9. Our chickens make next to no noise, no smells, and are otherwise not bothersome to neighbors in any way.

It was a struggle for us to get the signatures for our chickens - not because anybody said "no" but because we routinely had people who wouldn't answer the door when we knocked. Additionally, when we finally got enough signatures we were sent back out by Animal Control because we hadn't also gotten telephone numbers. One neighbor was quite unhappy to be bothered about it a second time. We persisted because we were committed but also in part because we were comfortable doing so as a white, English-speaking family.

Requiring people to get permission from each neighbor (at least 75%) not only discourages some people from having chickens at home but also encourages people to keep chickens illegally. Many of my neighbors have a limited English speaking ability, and the need to communicate their request to so many neighbors is a significant hurdle.

Since the City currently does not require neighbors to approve the keeping of dogs or cats, why should it be different for chickens? Dogs can be quite loud, unlike hens. We have regulations in place

that coops be built away from the property line and residential structures to reduce any nuisance effects that might come up. DSI has already reported to the council that complaints are minimal for homes with fewer than 7 chickens.

While it's true that we live in the city rather than on farms, "urban agriculture" can have significant social, health, and economic benefits for our people. For some it's a hobby while for others, such as our many immigrants, it is a way of life. As a city we should be encouraging personal and community gardens as well as chicken keeping.

Our city is encouraging residents to compost and recycle, and keeping chickens kickstarted our home composting. Currently we throw almost no food scraps away because we save it all for the chickens to eat. It is an excellent practice to reduce waste in exchange for healthy food (eggs) and cost savings.

Again, the city should encourage chicken keeping and reduce barriers. Please support the ordinance to ease the entry to chicken keeping in Saint Paul.

Regards,

Eric Saathoff

From: Drew Skwiers-Koballa [mailto:drew.koballa@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, November 06, 2017 4:07 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Cc: SSkwiers@gmail.com

Subject: proposed amendments in regards to keeping of chickens

Council Member Tolbert, Our names are Stephanie and Drew Skwiers-Koballa and we live in the South Como neighborhood of Ward 5.

We are expressing our support for the recently proposed amendments to the city ordinances in relation to keeping of chickens. Owning chickens can be a component of a family's ability to provide fresh and healthy food for themselves. We have several garden beds and have seen the positive impact that having fresh food grown directly on our lot has had on our health. Earlier this year we became interested in keeping chickens as we began familiarizing ourselves with the responsibility of caring for a small urban flock and the steps necessary to legally license them. Keeping of chickens does require a level of responsibility and the permit requirements should be commensurate.

Homeowners in Saint Paul for seven years, we are no strangers to the importance and intricacies of safety and inspections to the city. In 2012, we built a deck on our house that required a variance and signatures of all nearby neighbors since the permanent structure could impact the value of their property. For this very reason, the amendment of most interest to us is the removal of the 150 feet radius of signatures required to keep a flock of 6 or fewer chickens.

It wasn't easy getting neighbor signatures for the deck, despite the plans being clear that it would improve our neighborhood. Not only is it difficult to get some neighbors to answer the door, but several houses within 150 feet are hostile to the neighborhood due to their previously reported illegal activities. I would love to say that in a Saint Paul neighborhood we would all be better off if we would talk to our neighbors more – but that is an idealistic oversimplification of a community. In reality, each property should be granted leeway to exist in a manner that does not detract from the quality of the neighborhood.

None of the proposed amendments reduce the authority of animal control or safety and inspections to cite a property that fails to adequately care for their animals or meet building and property codes. These are better channels to moderate anyone who chooses to keep a small flock of chickens in a manner that would negatively impact their neighbors.

We understand farmland can be obtained outside of the city for those who would like more leniency in regard to their urban agriculture. It is also important to understand that subdivisions with protective covenants and a home owner's association are also available for those who desire to be less impacted by their neighborhood.

Respectfully,

Drew and Stephanie

Meghan Feliciano - Ord Amendment – Chickens

Meghan called saying she lives in Ward 3 and supports the amendment no signatures needed for folks who want chickens in their yards.

From: Kourtny Long [<mailto:kourtny.long@bluestonemd.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 8:58 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: Chicken ordinance for 11/8 meeting

Dear Mr. Tolbert,

Please vote YES! on the ordinance change proposed by Amy Brendmoen tomorrow to make it easier for residents to own backyard chickens.

Please and thank you!

Kourtny Long, PA-C

From: Michael Sonn [<mailto:sonn.michael@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 10:50 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: Keeping chickens ordinance changes

CM Tolbert,

I wanted to express my support for CM Brendmoen's ordinance changes. My family has raised 3 chickens in Mac-Groveland for over 2 years now. They are quiet, clean, and a ton of fun. I can't wait to teach my son about the responsibility and rewards of raising chickens.

I was disheartened by your farm comments last week, and I hope you had time to reconsider your position. My neighbors really enjoy the flock, with neighborhood kids regularly stopping by to say hello. They are quiet and do not stink with basic cleaning. They are multitudes less intrusive than a barking n'hood dog, which doesn't require neighbor permission or a permit to have.

There are also many families in Ward 3 that have chickens, and we are close to the civic gem that is Egg Plant Urban Farm store.

Please take a moment and vote in favor of making it easier for more families to take part in this awesome experience.

Thank you,
Mike Sonn
1458 Wellesley Ave