

DURHAM COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of January 25, 2022

Present:

Committee Members: Marianne Bond, Jan Paul, Kari Linfors, Joy Nolan, Amanda Gardner, Dr. Kate Bremser, Kari Linfors

Non-voting Members: Commissioner Heidi Carter, Mark Manning, Windy Pinner, Leah Santelli, Shafonda Davis

Observer: Brian Mulligan, Kelsey Gilmore-Futeral, John Graves

Guests: Donna Allison

Community Members: Sarah Reichman, John Graves, Paul McKinnon New appointee for the sheriff's office

Committee Counsel: Willie Darby

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Item I - Introductory Remarks

The meeting was called to order by acting Chair, Jan Paul, at 7:03 pm. A role call was conducted there was a brief discussion of membership and new members and reappointment. Commissioner Carter said the appointments will likely be made in the County Commissioner Meeting in February.

Brian Mulligan resigned as a member of this committee because he was already on the dangerous dogs committee. Membership was reviewed and upcoming appointments.

Item II – Approval of Minutes

The motion was made by Kari Linfors to approve the meeting minutes from the November 23, 2021, meeting and the motion was seconded by Kate Bremser.

A request was made to approve the agenda for the January 25, 2022, meeting and Kari Linfors made a motion to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded by Kate Bremser.

Item III - Animal Services Report

Captain Manning reported that Animal Services staffing was critically staffed and had several vacant positions to include a corporal, lieutenant, and officers. He also said that Animal Services was shut down for two weeks with COVID issues.

In the month of December, they responded to 762 calls for service with an average response time of 18 minutes. There was also one community event in December and 136 reports were completed. Animal Services impounded 88 animals which included bats, birds, cats, dogs, and an owl. Eight animals were returned to owners based on microchip information. Thirty-nine dogs were impounded.

Captain Manning provided information on nuisance animals and described them as animals found on someone else's property. Last month, Animal Services responded to several nuisance calls which were all

cats. Loose dogs are under another section of the ordinance, Dogs at Large. They responded to 12 calls for possible rabies, 11 of which were racoons and 1 bat. Also, during the month of December, they provided 41 rabies vaccines and no civil penalties were issued.

Captain Manning also passed on some good news in that they hired an administrator to assist in the office.

Item IV – Shelter Report

Full reports from Director Davis are attached. Director Davis did say that APS has been very buty with the loss of their full-time veterinarian. They are using SNAP NC and a few volunteer vets to assist. A big thank you to Dr. Bremser for providing 50+ heath certificates for animals. Director Davis said that the shelter is over capacity with 109 dogs, and they have 100 kennels. Sixty percent of those dogs are strays/abandoned animals.

APS has developed a partnership with Best Friends Network Partner and the Animal Protection Society of Durham has teamed up with the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA shelter in Virginia. They are working together to increase the live release rate, developing programs and they had their first animal transport. Very similar make up and working together to increase live release rate. Pushing out more programs and first transport!!!

Leah Santelli who it the Director of Life Saving Programs has worked on this partnership and mentioned that the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA has four veterinarians on staff and the animals they received may not have been able to be placed in Durham. The cats were older and other animals would have been harder to place because of health or behavioral issues. Without a veterinarian on staff, it is very expensive to outsource.

The goal is to find a veterinarian that is extremely experienced. They did have a someone who was offered the position, but this was the lowest offer received. Dr. Bremser said the industry is in a crisis with a shortage. Part may be due to the COVID shortage of staff and veterinarians, but people are leaving the industry because of the debt load, burnout, and fatigue with shelter work. It is challenging to find a new vet and will require a group effort to find the right person.

Item IV – Old Business

Bylaws Status: Correction/modification to the bylaws – may need to add additional information to address carryovers.

TNVR Program: There was a discussion on the proposed ordinance on the draft on TNVR and Director Davis asked a question about the language of confined vs. impounded. Kelsey Gilmore-Futeral suggested a change in the language about taking legal ownership verses allowing the county to have temporary custody for vaccinating, sterilization etc., and then returned. If the animal was considered a nuisance, then it may not be returned the same location. Animal Services also used the language of impoundment and there is a difference in the definition of the term. John Graves mentioned redesigning the calls involving cats and said they would still need the stray hold. He also suggested mitigation training with Animal Services and education for the community.

In the proposed ordinance the concern was in Article 9 (page 14-15). There was a discussion about the language and to either remove or change the wording to add a release of an animal pursuant to the community cat program. A decision was made to remove that section from the proposed ordinance in Section 4-221 (a).

There was also a discussion about microchipping and removal of this from the proposal as well because it would be very difficult and almost impossible financially. The decision was made to leave this out of the proposed ordinance.

The next step is to send the amended ordinance to the County Commissioners, have two public readings, and then to vote to adopt.

A motion was made by Marianne Bond for the removal of the recommended sections of the proposed ordinance and Amanda Gardner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, and the proposed ordinance will move on through the process.

Item V – New Business

Report of Nominating Committee: There is currently a vacant seat (Brian Mulligan) which is appointed by the county commissioners. To be considered for the position a person must apply on the county's website. Amanda Gardner mentioned possibly having someone from the public defender's office and other members/visitors in the meeting were asked if they knew someone who would be interested in applying.

Dangerous Dog Ordinance: This discussion was deferred from the November meeting and not discussed at this time. The person who brought it before the board was not believed to be on the call.

Discussion of Electronic Leashes: This discussion was also deferred from the November meeting. Mr. Mulligan said he submitted in writing and videos with the issues of electronic leashes. There was a suggestion to send specific points out to the committee. Mr. Mulligan said that member of dangerous dog's appeal board mentioned wording in the law that says that one person can walk a dog on lead and can harm a dog off lead that the on-lead dog can be deemed dangerous. The dog off lead would not necessarily be the dangerous dog. There was a suggestion to bring sample ordinances before the committee to addressing the concerns.

Mr. Mulligan said his main concern was to look at the current laws and determine if electronic collars would be determined a leash.

Item VI – Public Comments

None.

A motion was made by Marianne Bond and seconded by Kari Linfors to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm.

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