**DURHAM COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting of January 26, 201**

**Present:**

*Committee Members:*Shannon McCabe, Jan Paul, Capt. Marianne Bond, Kari Linfors, Brian Mulligan, Amanda Gardner

*Non-voting Members:*Commissioner Heidi Carter, Shafonda Davis, Capt. Tim Deck, Lt. R. Rose, Leah Santelli

*Community Members:* Sarah Reichman

Committee Counsel: Willie Darby

**Special Meeting:** Wednesday, March 10, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. – Virtual Meeting

**Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, March 23, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. – Virtual Meeting

**Item I - Review and Approval of Minutes, Introductory Remarks**

The meeting was called to order by acting chair Marianne Bond. The minutes of the November 24, 2020, meeting were approved. Newly-appointed members Amanda Gardner and Brian Mulligan were introduced and welcomed. It was noted that veterinarian Dr. Kate Bremser’s term has expired, and the Committee is hopeful that she will apply for reappointment.

**Item II – Animal Services Report**

Officers responded to in excess of 780 calls in December 2020. The number of calls were down 23% from December 2019, and response time was down to 26 minutes. Call reporting was changed from calendar year to fiscal year. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected budget, procedures, and call volume during the fiscal year – starting in April 2020, Animal Services was taking emergency calls only, but returned to regular call volume mid-July, with responses from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and emergencies on weekends. Call volume is currently back to normal, with 12,000 calls by the end of the fiscal year.

No upcoming microchip clinics have been scheduled. Rabies vaccinations have resumed, by appointment only with expanded hours from 9:00 to 4:00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at the Glenn Road office.

A challenging issue involves hospital owners needing assistance with care while hospitalized – there needs to a safety hold program, providing temporary care. There is a robust foster program with APS.

**Item III – Shelter Report**

Shelter Director Shafonda Davis reported a slight decrease in intakes from last year. Workload for shelter personnel has increased due to the addition of additional programs, increased need in foster care and the food pantry, and the increase in adoptions and the number of people in and out of the shelter. Adoptions are not a more challenging process; adoptions through foster care are slower. The food pantry is doing well, and spay/neuter appointments are booked until May.

The shelter is in need of more resources with veterinary clinic contracts; there is a longer wait for spay/neuter veterinary clinic appointments, as demand is greater than the number of available appointments. Microchips have been added to that package. Contracts include set prices between the shelter and clinics; costs vary depending on the animal’s weight and gender. Billing occurs monthly, which lowers costs; funds are provided through the shelter’s budget, and grants. More clinics need to participate to meet the need for greater access. Contributing to animals in the community is a financial issue relating to overhead and staffing of the clinics; partners donate what they can. The cost for shelter animals averages approximately $125 per animal, whereas retail can be $500. One incentive is that although these contributions cover overhead only, providing the spay/neuter service could assist the practices in client development.

The number of cats has increased; there is now a greater need for spay/neuter services for cats and for kitten fostering. Many are stray, community kittens. Overpopulation of community cats is problematic. It has become more difficult to get corporate-owned practices to donate services to the shelter. Shelter development staff are preparing a letter seeking to enlist help.

Shelter staff and volunteers need to get COVID vaccines as essential personnel; a request to that effect has been made to the Durham Health Department. Commissioner Carter will follow up.

The following reports were submitted by Shelter Director Davis and are incorporated by reference herein:

Foster Report 1/21/21

Safety Net Report 1/21/21

Shelter Statistics December 2020

Shelter Statistics 7/1/20 to 12/31/20

**Item IV – Old Business**

Members discussed the next steps related to Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return (TNVR). Shelter Director Shafonda Davis and Committee Secretary Jan Paul emailed a variety of TNVR documents and literature to Committee members prior to tonight’s meeting, including information from previous AWAC TNR/TNVR study groups. It was agreed that Jan Paul would facilitate the effort to secure subject matter experts to present various viewpoints on the TNVR issue, as it is critical to gather information for the Committee to make informed recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners with respect to County ordinances. Names and contact information of suggested presenters should be sent to Jan within the next 72 hours. The Committee agreed that there should be a special meeting dedicated to the issue. Capt. Deck volunteered to remain involved on behalf of the Sheriff’s Office to help coordinate the meeting and to participate in the TNVR discussion. A motion was made and approved to allow each group or individual up to 10 minutes to present at a special meeting, to allow supporting data and research in the form of documents from presenters and other interested stakeholders, and to have the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners publish a notice of the special meeting for Wednesday, March 10th at 7:00 p.m.

**Item V – New Business**

There was no new business

**Item VI – Public Comments**

There were no public comments

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Janice Perrin Paul

Committee Secretary