

DURHAM COUNTY
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 28, 2023
7:00 PM

Present:

Committee Members: Marianne Bond, Jan Paul, Kari Linfors, Paul McKinnon, Elizabeth Overcash, Dr. Jenny Campbell

Non-voting Members: Captain Mark Manning, Lieutenant Wendy Pinner, Leah Santelli, Shafonda Allen

Community Members: Brian Mulligan, Sarah Reichman, Commissioner Heidi Carter, John Graves, Sarah Teer, Keischa Lovelace, Scott Tanner, Carolyn Wiley

Committee Counsel: Nathan McKinney

Item I – Introductory Remarks

Marianne Bond provided welcome remarks and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

Item II - Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 2022, November 2022, and January 2023 meetings had previously been sent out to committee members. All three were brought up for approval. Jan Paul moved to approve all three sets of minutes, and Marianne Bond seconded that approval, thus passing approval of the September 27, 2022; November 22, 2022; and January 24, 2023, minutes.

Item III – Animal Services Report

Captain Manning provided highlights for the Animal Services report. He reported that Animal Services officers responded to 690 calls in February, up from 657 calls in January. The response time was on average 37 minutes. Animal Services officers impounded 118 animals, 48 of which were strays and 43 of which were owner surrenders (14 cats and 29 dogs). Animal Services officers returned 17 animals to their owners in the field. Animal Services responded to 25 nuisance calls, 16 of which were cat related.

Captain Manning highlighted that 71 animals received rabies vaccinations at their rabies clinic, and he noted that a goal for Animal Services would be to offer this clinic five days per week.

Captain Manning also noted that Animal Services is currently in the middle of an active felony animal cruelty case, and the animal, a dog, is currently impounded at the shelter.

Captain Manning also introduced Scott Tanner, a new sergeant in Animal Services.

Item IV – Shelter Report

Director Allen reported that the shelter took in 277 animals in February, most of which were stray dogs. She noted that adoptions are down compared to this time last year, with 128 adoptions in February 2023 as compared to 173 adoptions in February 2022. Director Allen

stated that the shelter is running specials to help with this, as well as holding adoption events. She stated that APS transferred out 50 animals to transfer partners, which was critical in managing the population at APS. Director Allen noted that the shelter is preparing for kitten season and is seeking fosters. She reported that there are around 300 animals in foster care currently.

Director Allen noted that the shelter has recently hired new bilingual employees, which only helps to further communication efforts and reach at the shelter. She noted that the shelter is now fully staffed and introduced Carolyn Wiley, the new Development Director at APS. Carolyn is currently planning the annual Walk for the Animals, which is scheduled for May 27, 2023.

Director Allen also noted that there are a significant number of animals coming into the shelter who have been hit by cars, and that providing veterinary care for these animals can be expensive, as many of these animals need specialty veterinary care that cannot be performed at the shelter. She stated that this issue needs to be an educational priority, with a focus on people keeping animals under control and out of streets via leashes and fences.

Item V – Old Business

TNVR (Community Cat Program) Update: Commissioner Heidi Carter stated that it was her understanding that Attorney Curtis Massey was meeting with the relevant stakeholders and making progress on this. Keischa Lovelace, a legal advisor for the Sheriff's Office, provided further insight. She stated that the attorneys have been meeting to discuss the ordinance, and that the draft of the ordinance is complete. However, what the Commissioners also requested was a roadmap of how the community cat program will be managed. Ms. Lovelace stated that Attorney Massey is still working through this and is meeting with relevant community stakeholders, including Independent Animal Rescue, to see how this may be achieved.

Ms. Lovelace confirmed several points. First, the community cat program will need to be handled without funding from the county and without extensively involving the Sheriff's Office. She stated that while the Sheriff's Office is willing to give out information on any TNVR program, they will not be administering it. She also emphasized that the Sheriff's Office will still be responding to nuisance calls regarding cats and impounding those cats.

The next step in this process is getting the ordinance into the next available work session for the Commissioners. Ms. Lovelace felt that if this is not accomplished for the April work session, then the ordinance should likely be on the agenda for the May work session.

Approval of Committee Bylaws: Attorney Nathan McKinney has been working through a final version of the bylaws and, prior to the meeting, sent out these bylaws for review. Jan Paul made a motion to accept and approve Attorney McKinney's final version of the bylaws, and Paul McKinnon seconded this motion. The bylaws were thus accepted and approved.

Appointments and Elections: Kari Linfors spoke for the nominating committee. She nominated Dr. Jenny Campbell as chair, Elizabeth Overcash as vice chair, and Marianne Bond as secretary. She did not have any nomination for assistant secretary.

Jan Paul moved to accept the recommendation of the nominating committee and hold open the position of assistant secretary until an appropriate nominee can be found. Paul McKinnon seconded this motion, and the motion was therefore passed.

Item VI – New Business

There was no new business.

Item VII – Public Comments

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Jan Paul to adjourn the meeting, and this motion was seconded by Marianne Bond, thus adjourning the meeting.

The next meeting is May 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.