

DURHAM COUNTY

MEETING AGENDA Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 23, 2023

7:00 PM

[Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams]

Present:

Committee Members: Marianne Bond, Jan Paul, Kari Linfors, Dr. Kate Bremser, Joy Nolan, Elizabeth Overcash, Dr. Jenny Campbell, Shenell Little

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

Community Members: Jennifer Baukmen, Brian Mulligan, Kelsey Gilmore-Futeral, Sarah Reichman, Commissioner Heidi Carter, Annisa Litwin

Committee Counsel: Nathan McKinney

Sheriff's Office Counsel: Keisha Lovelace

Item I – Introductory Remarks

Dr. Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and welcomed those attending.

Item II - Approval of Minutes

Jan Paul made a motion to approve the minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Dr. Bremser.

Item III – Animal Services Report

Captain Manning announced that Paul McKinnon is resigning from his position on AWAC. The monthly report is from April and the Sheriff's Department responded to 1100 calls for service, which is a significant increase, 400 more than in January and February. The response time was under 16 minutes. Animal services attended 8 community events, 167 incident reports, and 105 animals impounded. Out of these 14 (13 dogs and 1 cat) were returned prior to going to the shelter – due to microchips.

Also, 31 dogs were impounded, there were 22 home bite confinements, 3 rabies investigations where one bat tested positive.

There were 34 animals surrendered, 32 dogs and 2 cats and Animal Services administered 64 rabies vaccines.

Item IV – Shelter Report

Director Allen emailed the reports with all the statistics. She reported that the dog numbers have remained consistent, but the adult cat numbers are down. A lot of kittens are coming in and fosters are needed.

In the month of April, 337 animals received 196 dogs, 108 cats, and 33 other animals. At the same time last year, 234 cats were brought in during the month of April 2022. Most of these animals are strays, 64% of the animals received in April were strays. They are microchipping every animal that leaves the shelter and are doing a tag promotion at least once a year.

Director Allen says there are after hour calls almost every night with animals (dogs) being struck by cars, and there are multiple tripods at the shelter and the vet bills are astronomical.

APS has added a community engagement person to their staff and more animals are being transferred to other partners (Burlington, Orange County, Safe Haven, Barn cats, etc.). In March 86 animals were sent to partner organizations and that was more animals than were euthanized in the shelter, down in the teens. – working on one for APS

The largest fundraiser is scheduled for May 25, 2023, APS Walk for the Animals, and the fundraising goal is \$110,000 and at the time of the meeting they were up to \$103,000.

APS has become a Hills Nutrition Shelter and they are one of the largest sponsors. They will be feeding Hills exclusively at the shelter. The donated food will be used in the pantry program and shared with their partners.

Item V – Old Business

- TNVR (Community Cat Program) – Vote on Proposed Ordinance Change

Commissioner Carter provided an update on the TNVR and advised that the meeting last night the County Attorney, Curtis Massey, gave a briefing to the board about TNVR about what has happened to date. He presented the first ordinance recommended by AWAC May 2022 and a newer one negotiation between stakeholders. The board wants to adopt the negotiated ordinance which removes barriers to TNVR (trapping, doesn't require to be brought into the shelter, eliminates the requirement for cats to wear rabies tags, and people providing care/support for community cats are not considered their owner). The board felt that the compromised ordinance was a success and there was a motion to formally adopt the new draft at the June 12th meeting to formally adopt at that meeting.

Item VI – New Business

Elizabeth Overcash suggested looking and next steps on community education and outreach since the focus on the ordinance has concluded. New idea to take on public education and outreach.

Director Allen suggested that we look at the direction of AWAC and that the committee was supposed to give recommendations to the County Commissioners and the Sheriff's Department on animal issues within the community.

A suggestion was made to discuss directions for the committee since the ordinance was wrapping up.

Item VII – Public Comments

Anissa Litwin asked if there was a plan to extend the calls for service for Animal Services where someone would be available to pick up strays on the weekend. If not, if there was an option to have some way to have an after-hours drop off.

A suggestion was made to contact the County Commissioners directly. Director Allen said most after hour unmanned drop boxes are not the best option. People were putting sick and dying animals in the boxes.

Meeting adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jan Paul and seconded by Kate Bremser.

Next meeting is July 25 at 7:00pm.