**DURHAM COUNTY**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Animal Welfare Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday, May 28, 2024**

**7:00 PM**

**[Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams]**

**Present:**

*Committee Members:*Dr. Jenny Campbell, Shenell Little, Lt. Georgette Ray, Dr. Ashley Banes, Jan Paul, Elizabeth Overcash.

*Non-voting Members:*Captain Mark Manning, Lt. Wendy Pinner, Shafonda Allen, Leah Santelli

*Community Members:* Sarah Reichman, Krisha Graham,

*Committee Counsel:* Nathan McKinney and Christy Malott

*Sheriff’s Counsel:* Keisha Lovelace

**Item I – Introductory Remarks**

Dr. Jenny Campbell called the meeting to order after 7:00 p.m. A roll call was conducted, and there was a quorum (at least 4 members). It was noted by Attorney Malott that she would be taking over for Attorney Nathan McKinney. There was a discussion by Attorney McKinney about absences of members in meetings and per the by-laws a position can become vacant after a member misses three meetings without cause.

A discussion among voting members about committee members missing meetings was discussed. Jan Paul was absent from the last meeting and believed her grandchildren were home and said it could be unexcused absence. The vice-chair, Elizabeth Overcash, said she was fine that it was unexcused. Jan Paul didn’t object and clarified that the by-laws stated three meetings in a row.

The chair and vice chair agreed that Marianne Bond’s missing the meeting due to PT was excused.

**Item II - Approval of Minutes**

The meeting minutes from the March 28, 2024 meeting were sent to all members but Dr. Campbell mentioned not having the minutes from January.

There was a question about the minutes from the meeting and what spot Dr. Banes falls into. It was clarified that she was a voting member.

Jan Paul made a motion to amend the minutes to adjust that Dr. Banes is a voting member and the appointed licensed veterinarian by the Sheriff. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Overcash and all members were in favor.

A motion was made by Jan Paul to approve the minutes with the amendment and seconded by Elizabeth Overcash. All members were in favor.

**Item III – Animal Services Report**

Captain Manning provided the following report.

Last month, the total calls for service was 928, response times down to 15 minutes, they attended 8 community events, and 156 incident reports. One hundred one animals were impounded. There were 29 stray dogs and 9 were returned to owners without having to be taken to the shelter.

Animals services impounded 42 animals due to the nuisance ordinance and completed 47 home confinement checks. There were 6 different rabies investigations, 5 for bats and 1 cat. All came back negative. There were also 44 different animals surrendered (dogs, cats, rabbits). They also administered 71 rabies vaccines at the in house clinics. The fee is $10 for a year vaccine.

Sixty-nine warnings issues, 61 of which were verbal and 8 written. Four civil penalties were written for a total of $700. They investigated 26 animal abuse cases, all of which were unfounded.

**Item IV – Shelter Report**

Director Allen provided the shelter report. They have been receiving a lot of animals from the community. In April there were 372 animals brought in to the shelter and 314 in March. The majority of animals are strays. Surrenders are not going up but APS has a lot of programs to help keep the animals in their homes.

The shelter is overcapacity with dogs and as of last Friday they had 120 dogs with only 100 kennels. They are running adoption events and reaching out to volunteers and partners to ask for assistance.

The cat population is not over capacity but they do have a lot of kittens. Leah spoke on the cat adoption partnership with Petsmart at Brier Creek and they have a few cats housed at that location. All cats dropped off has been adopted. They do not stay in that location more than three weeks and so far none have come back to the shelter. They are finding that younger cats are adopted within a day or two.

An additional program is the community spay/neuter program. The goal was to spay/neuter 900 animals but they are already at 1000. This program is funded by donations and 100% covered.

Walk for the Animals is the following Saturday and they believe they will make their goal. The day of service and trail building was successful.

APS is in the process of building up an education committee to assist getting the word out about services they provide.

Dr. Campbell asked Director Allen to talk about the types of dogs that are at the shelter. The majority of dogs they have are large breed pitty mixes. They do have two behaviorists on staff to assist keeping them mentally healthy.

Dr. Banes said she had received feedback that is hard for people to get to Mebane for spay/neuter clinic. Director Allen said that unfortunately there is no other mobile vet to provide these services. Elizabeth Overcash said Burlington has their own clinic but it is contracted out and is still expensive. Dr. Banes asked if an entity can request additional funds from the county to assist with spay/neuter.

Jan Paul mentioned that in looking at the by-laws the purpose of the AWAC was to advise the County Commission and Sheriff about animal welfare concerns. The committee can make recommendations after a motion and vote.

Dr. Campbell made a motion to have a sub-committee discuss the ideas and Jan Paul suggested to place it on the agenda since the meetings are supposed to be public. Director Allen suggested brining in Social Services and Jan Paul mentioned inviting members into the discussion.

Dr. Campbell asked if the agenda went on to the county website and Captain Manning said it was the Chair or Secretary that would send the agenda to the clerk’s office. Jan Paul said the chair would create the agenda and either delegate or send the agenda to the clerk. Dr. Campbell said the minutes for January could not be found on the website.

Attorney McKinney suggested the agenda should be added to the website a week or two before the meeting. Dr. Campbell asked if other committees were handling the posting of agenda on the website. It was suggested that Attorney McKinney and Dr. Campbell discuss the posting at a later time.

Elizabeth Overcash made a motion making the agenda public prior to the meeting. Dr. Campbell asked for voting members to agree to the motion and they all agreed.

**Item V – Old Business**

Dr. Campbell said she received an email about the new ordinance has not been posted on the website as of yet. Sarah Reichmann said the proposal is on the website but it has not been updated on the municipal code. She thought Macio was in charge of updating and she asked if Attorney McKinney could check in.

**Item VI – New Business**

None

**Item VII – Public Comments**

No public comments

A motion was made to adjourn by Jan Paul and seconded by Shenell Little.

The next meeting is for July 23, 2024 at 7:00 pm.