

Durham Animal Control Advisory Committee
March 22, 2011

In attendance: Martha Ann Traylor, Shafonda Price, Cindy Bailey, Joyce McKinney, Susan Teer, Evelyn Nicholson, Fran Foster.

Absent: Joyce Arcus, Becky Heron, Marie Inserra, Jenny Campbell

Meeting called to order at 7:08PM by ^{Chairman} ~~President~~ Fran Foster. Minutes from the January meeting were read and approved.

Animal Control Update..Cindy Bailey: Normal seasonal activity..bites are down. Cindy is currently on the County Health Assessment Team and this year animal behavior is included, rabies, etc. Cindy asked that animal bites be included as well. Homelessness is also at issue.

There are currently 3 vacancies in Animal Control. Dispatch position recently filled. Expect ACO to be filled by April as well. None of the new employees are bilingual. Budget meeting with the County Manager is to be held March 23rd.

Trapping is a big issue pre spring..trying to get ahead of birthing.

Cindy will be meeting with Judge Morey re' discussion of criminal negligence and animal issues.

Animal Shelter Update..Shafonda Price: Fewer animals were received into the shelter in January and February. The spay/neuter program is on hold right now other than for shelter adopted pets.

The gala (March 19) was wonderful and very well attended. Larry Stogner of Chanel 11 was the MC. There were approx. 350 persons in attendance.

Three local vets are offering free, first time visits for animals adopted from the shelter. Colony Park, Timberline and Legion offer exam, Frontline and Heartworm prevention.

Old Business:

Ms. Bailey: update of Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Release sub committee. Still no start up meeting due to other things being scheduled. Still looking for information from those in feral cat rescue. An April meeting is planned.

New Business: Recent Pit Bull incident involving shooting and killing of the dog. Ms. Nicholson stated that we missed an appropriate chance to express our opinion in this matter. Ms. Arcus stated in January that Ms. Heron asked the committee to address this problem with perhaps a letter to the editor of the Herald Sun. Members were asked at that time to send their letters and or comments to Ms. Arcus via email and she would compile them and be back in touch with everyone. Evidently, Ms. Nicholson was the only one who commented. She felt that at the very least we should follow the recommendation of Ms. Inserra and commend the DA for quick action in this case. Nothing was done and Ms. Arcus gave no response to date. Some members stated that they knew nothing about the case..others stated they knew some things about it and were hesitant to get involved either singly or as a member of the group. Ms. Nicholson asked if there were By-Laws and Mission statement available for this Committee? Ms. Bailey said we have them, they are very old but available and she will make them available for the next meeting. Members agreed that these should be looked at and perhaps reworked..

This will be added to the agenda for the May meeting.

Members discussed Rotation for Minutes. ~~It is fair for minutes to be recorded by one member each meeting. Ms. Taylor declined to be included in this rotation. Other~~ Members agreed they would rotate taking minutes. Ms Nicholson volunteered to prepare minutes for this meeting.

Ms. Bailey mentioned there is a new group in Durham involved in reducing unnecessary euthanasia in local shelters and Durham County. Durham Partners for Companion Animals is the new name for the already established group. All categories are addressed: behavior of animal (why did they end up in a shelter?), vet input, public education, animal/human bond, social services and mental health. The group is looking for sponsorship from other corporations

Dr. McKinney asked for comment on stopping xeroxing of shelter and animal control stats and instead asked Ms Bailey and Ms. Price to email those to the members before the May meeting. Members could read them and or copy them at their convenience. This would save paper for the two agencies and time for the managers as well. Members present agreed this is a good idea.

Ms. Foster adjourned the meeting at 8:05PM. Next meeting May 24 at 7PM at the Durham County Animal Shelter.

Minutes submitted by Evelyn Nicholson