

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COLLIER COUNTY
DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Naples, Florida, March 20, 2012

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, that the Collier County Domestic Animal Services Advisory Committee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 6:30 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION at Domestic Animal Services Resource Training Room, Davis Blvd., East Naples, Florida with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Marcia Breithaupt
VICE CHAIRMAN: Jim Rich
Marjorie Bloom
Sergeant David Estes
Dr. Ruth Eisele
Tom Kepp, Jr.
Dan Martin

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Townsend, Director, DAS
Nan Gerhardt, Shelter Manager, DAS
Ekna Guevara, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order

Chairman Marcia Breithaupt called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

II. Attendance – Establish a Quorum

Attendance was taken and a quorum established.

Nine members of the Public were also in attendance.

III. Approval of Agenda:

Marjorie Bloom moved to approve the agenda. Second by Dan Martin.

Carried unanimously 7-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes: February 21, 2012

Marjorie Bloom moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2012, as presented. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 7-0.

V. Old Business:

A. Director's Report

Amanda Townsend reported on the following:

- a. Good News items –
 1. Quentin was taken in by a loving family. Amanda read a heartwarming letter from the adoptive parents praising the DASAB and Marjorie Bloom; thanking everyone who cared for the dog and helped them through the process. They wrote about Quentin's adjustment and assimilation into their family.
 2. A newly hired ACO sent a late-night e-mail describing several good things that happened on her job that were very rewarding and a firm reminder of - "why we do what we do."
- b. Budget – Concern was expressed regarding the state of the reserves, until taxes come in, in November. A mid-term cut was made in the medicine and drugs line item. Revenues from licensing were up; but, not enough to replace even one of the seven vehicles needed. The three years of 5% cuts will result in changes to services. Discussions in the coming months will focus on ways to work around the problem.
- c. Personnel updates – Approval for Dan Christenbury's position to be permanent was given by the BCC. Two new Animal Control Officers were now in training. Another, who transferred from Utilities, will be going through ACO school. During the past week, a new Shelter Tech began employment. When all are in place, DAS will be at full staff.
- d. Project updates – Tuesday, March 27, the BCC will receive the DASAB approved Executive Summary regarding changes to the Animal Control Ordinance.

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Various items from the project list were noted, along with their state of progress:

- Medical Foster Program – some were being done, such as Quentin’s case.
- Sunday Hours – a long term project to look into in the next budget
- Converting to a *courtesy reminder* system from a *notice to comply* system was in operation
- Web pet retention hotline - a long term project, building knowledge from community input
- Maddie Fund Project - not until October, after reviewing policy & improvement needs; and, after Nan’s retirement, a national recruitment search takes place and her successor is firmly in place.
- Immokalee Shelter - The 2nd meeting of the Sub-committee will be coordinated by Ekna Guevara for date and time.
- Cases for enforcing non payment of citation – awaiting ongoing information from the Clerk’s office

Chairman Marcia Breithaupt inquired about the continuing use of the Bordetella vaccine.

Amanda Townsend responded the 6-month trial showed neither an increase nor a decrease in the medical condition. She stated that a even if a somewhat healthier animal returned to the community, the needed effort and expense put out would be too great for so little results.

Dr. Ruth Eisele suggested a better vaccine could be tried.

Amanda Townsend will see what Drs. Levy and Crawford suggest.

Amanda Townsend reported Administrator Steve Carnell had toured the shelter; and, that DAS was on track for implementing the Assilomar Accords on April 1, 2012.

VI. New Business

A. Vacant Advisory Board Seats (handout - Applications of candidates)

a. Update on filling seats

Tom Kepp was congratulated on his re-appointment to the DASAB by the BCC at their last meeting.

Amanda Townsend explained that four applications for the At-Large category had been received. There were no applicants for the Veterinarian/Vet Tech category. One of the At Large applicants could qualify for the Animal Activist category, but had not *applied* for that category. Those two categories will be re-advertised and appropriate qualified candidates may apply. Conflict of interest issues hindered Veterinarian or Vet Tech applicants; most of whom have business ties to Collier County.

Nan Gerhardt arrived at 7:07pm

- b. Presentation by applicants - Each of the applicants who applied was present and each spoke about their backgrounds and interest in serving on the DASAB.
- c. Voting by DASAB – Voting was conducted by paper ballot for the At-Large category seat on the DASAB.
(The meeting continued while the votes were tallied.)

B. Underwriting adoption fees for hard-to-place animals

Amanda Townsend announced a \$5,000 donation had been secured through the efforts of volunteer Bob McKenzie. The funds were designated for cat adoption fees for hard to place cats; defined as those that had been at the shelter for more than 3 weeks.

The donors will be sold gift certificates for that donation, to be held for redemption at the time of adoptions.

Discussion followed on what the Donation Trust Funds could and could not be used for.

Jim Rice Rich noted the *Seniors for Seniors* program, whereby *For the Love of Cats* will pay for those over 55 to adopt 5-year old and older cats.

C. April meeting schedule

Amanda Townsend announced the scheduled April meeting would conflict with a conference she will be attending. The Board agreed to move the DASAB meeting to the following Tuesday, *April 24, 2012 at 6:30 PM.*

Ekna Guevara presented the voting results. *Marjorie Bloom* was the successful applicant for the At Large category and will be recommended to the BCC for approval.

VII. Public Comment Topic - NONE

- A. **Dr. Ruth Eisele** briefly spoke about the need to be aware of several compensation law suits going on the regarding the pain and suffering in dogs being euthanized. She will fax the information to DAS.

Amanda Townsend announced the Florida Animal Control lobbyists reported no legislation had been enacted nor bills passed.

B. Individual Comments - None

VIII. Advisory Board Member Comments:

Sergeant David Estes, in reference to the letter about Quentin, stated praise and kudos should go to the staff, not the DASAB, for all they do.

Tom Kepp spoke in reference to enforcement of, for example, a multiple animal complaint. He suggested instead of sending out a warning letter, requiring a return to

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check on compliance, issuing a citation first - with the opportunity to prove compliance in a given number of days for the citation to be forgiven.

Amanda Townsend responded that was a topic the sub-committee could discuss and maybe work into the Ordinance changes.

Dr. Ruth Eisele stated the meeting was her last one on the Board and told how she had enjoyed her tenure on the DASAB.

Amanda Townsend spoke for herself and the Board, saying Dr. Ruth's presence was appreciated and her background in shelter medicine contributed much to the Advisory Board.

Marjorie Bloom was impressed with the interest and qualifications of all who applied to serve on the Board. She noted the Volunteer program could be strengthened by finding ways to mentor them, such as pairing them with a regular worker. She asked everyone present to get involved, take part in the call-back program and/or visit the kennels.

Dan Martin commented on the budget cuts affecting the inability to purchase a vehicle, by suggesting the utilization of the news media.

He asked for clarification on the Executive Summary procedure and asked when would the search for Nan Gerhardt's successor begin. *(Amanda provided explanations)*

He mentioned creating a second donation type trust fund or community center fund which would not be *public* funds, but formed as an independent entity. *(Topic for future discussion)*

Jim Rich announced he would attend the next meeting when, or until his successor is voted in.

Chairman Marcia Breithaupt suggested a Medical Fund Drive.

The next meeting of the DAS Advisory Board will be April 24, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 7:43 P.M.

Collier County Domestic Animal Services

Chairman Marcia Breithaupt

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on _____ as presented _____ or as amended _____.

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