

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

Naples, Florida, November 8, 2013

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 4:00 P.M. at Domestic Animal Services Resource Training Room, Davis Blvd., East Naples, Florida with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Marcia Breithaupt
VICE CHAIRMAN: Marjorie Bloom
Sgt. David Estes (excused)
Cindy Harrold (excused)
Dan Martin
Michael Simonik

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Townsend, Director of DAS
Kathlene Drew, Volunteer Coordinator, DAS
Dan Christenbury, Public Relations Coordinator, DAS
Kellie Carroll, DAS Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Marcia Breithaupt called the meeting to order at 4:05 P.M.

II. Attendance:

Roll call was taken and a quorum established

III. Approval of Agenda:

Michael Simonik moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Marcia Breithaupt. Carried unanimously, 4-0.

IV. New Business:

A. Board of County Commissioners Agenda Item 17.B. scheduled for November 12, 2013.

Amanda Townsend announced the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) would be meeting on November 12, 2013 to consider disbanding, combining or consolidating several County Advisory Boards (Agenda item #17 B) A Workshop on the subject had been held on October 1, 2013 to review its 51 Advisory Boards. Staff was given direction to return an Executive Summary and an Ordinance to repeal the Ordinance establishing seven different County Advisory Boards; one of which was the Domestic Animal Services Advisory Board (DASAB). She then opened up the discussion for comments by the DASAB. Several members of the public also had an opportunity to comment.

A discussion followed regarding the lack of notification to the Advisory Board members regarding the topic of discussion that was to be on the Workshop agenda and the short notice of the BCC's intent to disband the DASAB.

Amanda Townsend stated the Workshop was noticed and the BCC November Agenda just came out listing the seven Advisory Boards being considered. Thus the cause for tonight's informational meeting; giving the DASAB and the public time to present any objections at the BCC meeting November 12.

The DASAB, along with public input, had the task of deciding on their approach to the BCC on November 12, as a Board or as individuals, on the need to retain the DASAB as a separate entity. Or, should it be dissolved, adequate provision made to replicate DASAB's mission and objectives.

Marjorie Bloom asked what would happen if the DASAB was dissolved.

Amanda Townsend responded she would envision more of a Town Hall Forum. Have a new variety of voices and a better way to reach out to the public on what DAS offers; with less adversarial and confrontational situations. Those on the DASAB could continue to have a voice in animal issues and interface with DAS to make it better.

She spoke about Open House meetings and the Lecture Series as means to have dialogue with the Public; free from the restraints of the Sunshine Law

and Roberts Rules which limit communications amongst Board Members and between it and the public.

V. Public Comment

Tom Kepp

- commented that most of the Boards selected for dissolving had been inactive for many years and/or had accomplished the mission for which it was created.
- questioned how the recently passed Ordinance was going to be enforced, breeder regulations followed up and accountability ensured.
- noted the unfinished Project List and Policy and Procedures Manual update as well as all the work the DASAB had done to improve and assist DAS.
- stated the BCC does not concern itself with what the DASAB does or has done.
- mentioned it was a strange coincidence that the DASAB spent two years on the AC Ordinance, which the County will have to enforce; and, now are disbanding the DASAB.
- had heard talk of a Master Board being planned; but encouraged the DASAB to fight disbanding until one is in place to oversee and carry out DASAB's functions.
- was concerned with DASAB not being informed of the upcoming action.

Jim Rich

- stated the Memo he received was to eliminate duplication. His point was DASAB did not duplicate anything; and, why DASAB was singled out.
- cited the Ante-chaining, TNR and the Revised Animal Control Ordinance and asked who would do these things without DASAB.
- noted the public wanted to have someone be their voice as a liaison to speak up for them, as well as having public forums.
- asked DASAB to speak up at the BCC meeting. Fight for what DASAB had been doing all these years.

Amanda responded: If a big item in animal welfare came along DAS would create a task force on the issue and have people with expertise find a solution, and then disband.

Phyllis Estes commented the DASAB was the only way the Public had an input and a means to voice concerns to the County. DASAB may not have put itself out there enough to the Commissioners with a report of how valued it is.

Stephen Wright

- urged everyone to log on to Colliergov.net/communicationsdept/bcctv to view the Workshop and to see Commissioners Nance, Hiller and Henning were determined to get rid of a lot of Advisory Boards and their number of Minutes that they do not have time to read.
- noted DAS was created in 2004 to improve DAS by working together.
- cited many items he found valuable at the DASAB meetings: the Directors Report; the good and bad happenings at DAS, what is being resolved, studies

and information that comes out through the Advisory Board and the public's interest and participation.

- suggested a solid plan was needed before eliminating the Advisory Board; and, that DASAB get the BCC to continue the Advisory Board until a plan was in place.

Pat Murphy stated there was a valued function to the public in being able to funnel comments and obtain information through the DASAB; and, that there needs to be that entity to serve those voices.

Amanda Townsend responded if the Advisory Board was disbanded, it would be replaced by another type of public input and output.

VI. Advisory Board Comments

Michael Simonik agreed with Stephan Wright in that the Board would be more comfortable with how animal welfare issues will be handled if a plan was already in place and DASAB had some input. He favored an open forum for people to come and voice concerns and get answers to be in place. He stated it was not good enough to just hope the government would get around to it- sometime. He also read from the creation of the DASAB and its function to help DAS in its programs, facilities and services. He asked what was to become of the Project List and the Immokalee Shelter project with nothing planned to replace DASAB.

Marjorie Bloom agreed with others that the Sunshine Laws were hard to work under. She cited the volunteers' ability to have meetings and to contact one another; they really got things done. Her suggestion was to get out of the recitation of the problems and on to the solution. She favored an Open Forum, meeting regularly.

Dan Martin

- commented the DASAB was a volunteer forum for the public to bring their complaints and for actions to be taken to benefit the animal population of the County.
- reviewed the hours given on the Ordinance and other issues, outside the actual meeting time by DASAB members.
- noted the BCC did not come to meetings nor value what the DASAB had accomplished.
- stated the County staff needs a public comment forum, citing Ordinances that are only for public scrutiny, but, not enforced totally.
- cited the good cross section on the DASAB and the many issues addressed and handled by DASAB and DAS working together.
- emphasized it would be a detriment to Collier County and a disgrace to disband the DASAB.

Michael Simonik moved to recommend the DASAB oppose dissolving the DASAB until such time as a plan for an Open Forum and Task Force with scheduled meetings are in place. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 4-0.

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A brief discussion followed regarding attendance at the November 12th BCC meeting where the topic will be on the regular Agenda.

VII. Adjourn

Michael moved to adjourn. Second by Dan Martin. Carried unanimously, 4-0.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 5:13 P.M.

The next meeting of the Domestic Animal Advisory Board is November 19, 2013.

Collier County Domestic Animal Services

Chairman Marcia Breithaupt

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