

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

Naples, Florida, November 19, 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 6:30 PM in REGULAR SESSION at Domestic Animal Services Training Room, Davis Blvd., East Naples, Florida with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Marcia Breithaupt  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Marjorie Bloom  
Sergeant David Estes  
Cindy Harrold  
Dan Martin  
Michael Simonik

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Townsend, Director of DAS  
Melissa Shyan-Norwalt, Operations Manager  
Darcy Andrade, Animal Control Supervisor  
Kathlene Drew, Volunteer Coordinator, DAS  
Daniel Christenbury, Public Relations Coordinator, DAS  
Kellie Carroll, Administrative Assistant, DAS  
Steve Carnell, Public Services Administrator

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Marcia Breithaupt called the meeting to order at 6:32 P. M.

**II. Attendance**

Attendance was taken and a quorum established.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

*Cindy Harrold moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Sgt. David Estes. Carried unanimously, 6-0.*

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Director's Report**

**Amanda Townsend** reported on the changes being made at the shelter. With new funds available from the beginning of the fiscal year, a larger space for showcasing adoptable cats was in the making. Large posters of the cats were posted in the hallway to the adoption room.

The new automated answering system was in operation, after a few glitches were resolved. She asked those present to let DAS know if they experience any problems when calling in.

**Melissa Shayan-Norwalt reported** she had been focusing on a Grant opportunity being offered through Petco and Halo Dog Food companies. It was somewhat of a contest titled "*Holiday Wishes*". Up to five applications of "feel good" adoption stories, with photos would be accepted. How the Shelter was involved was also required in the application process. The Grant prizes range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. DAS was submitting four applications. Melissa told the stories of the four animals selected. One of the "good news" stories involved two dogs who came to the shelter two months apart and were adopted two months apart, by different owners. They were re-united, by chance, at a Dog Park in *New Jersey*, where their owners stated they renewed their friendship as if they were never separated. Melissa stated the winner of the Grand Prize will appear on the Ellen DeGeneres show, co-sponsor with Halo Dog Food Company.

**Darcy Andrade** reported her department had been busy with education, training and implementation of the new Animal Control Ordinances. They were working with businesses to help them with compliance and providing proper forms. Four officers attended Cruelty Investigation Classes in Lee County. Two had now completed all three required Cruelty Investigation Courses and received that Classification.

**Daniel Christenbury** reported on:

- The successful October *Adopt a Shelter Dog Month* promotion. The event was covered by WINK News who broadcasted their morning show from DAS. It resulted in seventy-two dogs being adopted.
- The November event - *Adopt a Senior Pet Month*. As of today, three older

cats and two older dogs had been adopted.

- Windstar Community's Giving Tree. They receive DAS's "Wish List" and were very generous with donations.
- Working on Cat Adoption signs, similar to the ones done for dogs.

**Kathy Drew** commented:

- The "Season" was back!! Seasonal Volunteers were returning, just as the influx of seasonal visitors and events were increasing.
- The October's off-site events numbered 18 or 19, including the popular ones at Starbucks.
- All around town various activities were taking place and being planned.

#### **B. Ordinance Implementation Update ( Dan Martin)**

**Dan Martin** stated he was not able to be present when the DASAB finalized the Ordinance; and, in that final he saw changes other than what was agreed upon by the Ordinance Sub-Committee. He asked for an explanation.

**Amanda Townsend** explained all the changes in the adopted Ordinance were in place and being implemented; except for the Responsible Pet Owner Class. Curriculum was being created and the Class was slated for January.

Staff and Animal Control Officers have been trained and brought up to date on their rolls.

Outreach to Breeders was scheduled for the evening of December 4. Anyone interested was invited to attend the Presentation to learn what they have to do to come into compliance. Breeders had been contacted and sent information packets.

She thanked everyone for their input and efforts in the process of revising the Ordinance and its adoption.

#### **C. Graphics for Vans (hand-out)**

**Amanda Townsend** had provided copies of the visual wraps for the two DAS vans. She sought the DASAB's support for using Public Funds for the graphic wraps. She stated the use of the vans as "rolling billboards" would keep DAS visible and promote the human/animal bond that the wrap will depict.

*Marjorie Bloom moved to support the use of Public Funds to provide graphic wraps for the two DAS vans. Second by Marcia Breithaupt.*

Discussion followed regarding the sample and comments on what would be depicted on the wraps, size and placement.

*Amanda responded what was depicted in the handout was a sample and may or may not be the final graphic chosen. However, the image chosen will be one projecting humans reacting with their pets along with the DAS name and the County's logo. There's some constraints due to available photo stocks.*

***The motion Carried unanimously, 6-0.***

**V. New Business**

**A. Short and long term planning for business and animal welfare (Chairman)**

**Marcia Breithaupt** asked DAS for the top priorities in the next 3 years.

**Amanda Townsend** reviewed the procedures the DASAB had followed and the exercises done to create the current Project List. She mentioned each completed goal and noted it had taken approximately two years for completion. She pointed out the remaining eight goals/projects were mostly wrapped up, or, didn't work out. She requested the DASAB's input on new goals and priorities and how they wanted to go about choosing them.

A discussion followed and the Priority List was reviewed. The DASAB decided to keep the push for Sunday hours on the new list. Also, to roll over the Pet Retention Hotline, Courtesy Reminders, Maddies Fund and the Immokalee Shelter Improvement. A Memorial Garden was mentioned. *Amanda stated her priority was to finish what was started. No strategic plan would be made without Public input and DASAB was encouraged to make a plan and provide input on alternative ways to expend Donation Trist Funds.*

*The consensus arrived at was to hold a public workshop in January to be scheduled in place of a regular meeting.*

**B. Commissioner Hiller's ideas for the future of the DASAB (Marjorie Bloom)**

**Marjorie Bloom** reported she had e-mailed Commissioner Hiller asking her what her ideas were for DAS should the Advisory Board be dissolved. There had been no response.

**Steve Carnell** provided some background information about the history of the County's Advisory Boards. He stated Advisory Boards were created to enhance public input and communications; but, over the years have grown to an unwieldy number and may even be having the opposite effect. Some no longer meet and/or have already accomplished the task they were created for. The BCC advocated streamline and consolidating some of the 50 plus Advisory Boards and directed the County Manager to gather information and set up criteria for deciding each advisory board's relevance.

He explained the County was made up of four Divisions: Public Services, Public Utilities, Growth Management and Administrative Services.

The BCC envisioned dissolving most Advisory Boards and replacing them with Division-wide Boards. The Divisions would appoint ad hoc committees and/or sub-committees to deal with public communications and other issues; and, to advocate to the BCC.

He noted the Transportation Board and the 15 MSTUs, about which the BCC may have to re-think consolidation. He explained MSTUs and their functions, which residents vote for, pay the tax on and have a say in the expenditures. He apologized for the confusion generated by the announcement of DASAB being dissolved. He listed some of the criteria given by the County Manager when considering dissolving or consolidating the Advisory Boards:

- How long have they been meeting and active
- How effective have they been
- Did they have trouble getting quorums
- Were people showing up for meetings
- Were they able to staff the boards with the proper volunteers called for by the Ordinance.
- Were they State Statute mandated
- Were they able to function
- Were they the final arbiter of issues

He noted DASAB was not required by law; and, could not fill the Veterinarian's position.

He commended the Advisory Board for their efforts and input when called upon to help rewrite the Animal Control Ordinance. However, he also noted there seemed to be more rancor and an adversarial tone to the meetings which discouraged the public to speak.

The County and DAS will look into viable alternatives; such as Town Hall meetings and partnerships group with animal rescue and animal service groups to have them meet on a regular basis to promote coordination among the agencies and increase technical knowledge. Shelter tours and site visits could be promoted.

He stated the DASAB was taken off the dissolution list for now. But, it was an ongoing process. He also stated he would like to work with DASAB to operate in the same way as the Parks and Recreation and Library Boards; functioning in an advocacy role.

Mr. Carnell read the specific roll DASAB was charged to do, which did not include exacting accountability from DAS. He stated that would be his Division's responsibility.

He gave some positive suggestions for the DASAB to improve its functions and to help DAS in its function.

### C. Annual Statistics

**Amanda Townsend** reviewed the statistics, which were projected on an overhead screen; and, had been previously e-mailed to the DASAB members.

**Sgt. David Estes** suggested Amanda field any questions from the Advisory Board, rather than go over each item line by line and all agreed.

**Marcia Breithaupt** asked if there was a record of how many dogs there were in Collier County.

*Amanda Townsend responded the last statistics showed 175,000 total pets; 85,000 dogs and 90,000 cats; in addition, approximately 40,000 feral cats.*

**Dan Martin** noted the euthanasia numbers - 66% for dogs and 35% for cats.

*Amanda Townsend responded the two biggest concerns were only 3% of cats were reclaimed by their owners; and, 300 dead cats and dogs were picked up a year by ACO's –almost one a day. She commented the public needs help understanding*

*the risks of their animals running at large and the benefits of the Leash Law. However, she was proud of the increase in the live release rate while reducing the costs to DAS; due for the most part to the work of the many rescue groups.*

**Michael Simonik** stated he would like to see a goal set to increase the live release rate. He noted programs exist to help with this goal.

## **VI. Public Comment**

**Patty Teulet** stated she and Marjorie Bloom had been meeting with Amanda, Melissa and Kathy and many concerns had been resolved. Suggestions were made for showcasing larger dogs who are not being adopted. A feed and hay store on 951 had been located as a place for showcasing the larger dogs. A volunteer had produced a "Letter from a big dog named Otis" which she read to everyone. She asked for input from the DASAB for ideas to get them adopted.

**Michael Simonik** stated data bases showed the most zip codes adopting large dogs were in the Golden Gate Estates area. People in those zip codes liked big dogs. He suggested finding a business or gas station out there and ask to conduct an adoption event.

**Sgt David Estes** named some specific spots where the vans could be parked. He asked if pictures of the dogs could be put on the sides of the vans.

**Marjorie Bloom** suggested advertising a Big dog Special - \$1 a pound. *Amanda Townsend responded pictures could be put on the sides of the vans and welcomed the suggestions put forth on behalf of the larger dogs.*

**Tom Kepp** complained that the Ordinance was not being followed and that is why adversarial issues arose. He spoke about the fact owned dogs are being reported as strays, when they are not strays, as defined in the Ordinance. Owners should have to pay. His argument was compliance was being ignored. And, if the Ordinance was not enforced then someone was not doing their job and should be held accountable. Tom suggested meeting with Amanda, Steve Carnell and Darcy. *Steve Carnell responded their philosophical differences on how to handle strays was a discussion for another time.*

**Kelly Hyland** criticized the lack of notification to the public about the possible dissolution of the Advisory Board. She stated deception was felt by her and others, when it was well known they had a deep interest in animal issues and always came to meetings. She was offended they were left out of the loop, not told until the last minute and just wanted to be considered. *Steve Carnell responded the item came up at the request of the BCC to the County Manager. At the Public Workshop several Advisory Boards were up for discussion. Staff was asked to make recommendations, not Amanda. It was not a DAS item. It was a BCC action with the County Manager and Division Managers.*

**Dan Martin** brought up information about the Veterans Park dog park being on

the chopping block.

*Steve Carnell responded it was a noise issue. Meetings with groups working on the problem were being held. Acoustical fence, moving the entrance and sound absorption methods were being utilized. Dog owners plan to meet inside Stonebridge to hear what homeowners are hearing. They will get together in two months to find a solution to reduce the noise.*

**Gisela Rowley** asked that the dog park be left alone. She noted it was there long before the homeowners. She commented if they wanted quiet, they should not have bought next to a public County park.

**Colleen Macalister** stated if it was just a question of yapping little dogs, could not a smaller space for them, and a larger one for big dogs, be provided.

*Steve Carnell responded they will look into the suggestions.*

**VII. Advisory Board Member Comments**

**Dan Martin** commented on the adversarial issues brought up by Tom Kepp and Kelly Hyland. He agreed it did, at times, get adversarial and the lack of transparency did not help. He stated all the Board members got e-mail and phone complaints from the public. He questioned what other venue would the public have (to bring their complaints of slow enforcement and no enforcement) except the DASAB, whose purpose was to listen to public complaints that really should be for the BCC's ears. Therefore, why was the BCC so anxious to get rid of DASAB, was his point.

**Cindy Harrold** was in agreement, for the most part. She stated the importance of acknowledging the animal public is a passionate and compassionate group. It was important to go into the new year with new attitudes on both sides and to move forward.

**Michael Simonik** reported the number of transfers to the Humane Society was 692. Cats -298; Dogs – 369; 5 rabbits and 2 guinea pigs.

**The next regular meeting of the Domestic Animal Services Advisory Board is scheduled for December 17, 2013.**

**There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 7:53 P.M.**

**COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES**

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**Chairman Marcia Breithaupt**

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
as presented \_\_\_\_\_, or as amended \_\_\_\_\_.

