

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

Naples, Florida, September 15, 2015

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: Michael Simonik
VICE CHAIRMAN: Vacant
SECRETARY: Aimee Leteux
Marjorie Bloom
James Seabasty
James Rich

ALSO PRESENT: Darcy Andrade, Director, DAS
Kyra Lynch, Animal Control Supervisor, DAS
Kellie Carroll, Administrative Assistant, DAS

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Simonik called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Attendance

A quorum was established.

Kellie Carroll presided over the projector displaying the Agenda packet.

III. Approval of Agenda

James Seabasty made a motion to approve the agenda. There was a second and the motion carried unanimously, 5-0

IV. Approval of Minutes of the July 21, 2015 Meeting

***Jim Rich** made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2015 minutes. There was a second and the motion carried unanimously, 5-0.*

V. Old Business

James Seabasty requested an update on the customer service issue discussed by Mr. Ernie Borden at the July 21, 2015 meeting and was advised by **Darcy Andrade** that it has been addressed.

VI. New Business

Director's Report

Darcy Andrade requested that members of the Board and the public to please send her any ideas that they have for the October Town Hall Meeting topic. **Ms. Andrade** provided an update on the telephone response time issue that was discussed at the July 21, 2015 meeting and advised that it was a staffing issue and that she has had a program installed that enables her to monitor the phone activity from her desk. She also thanked everyone that had attended the budget hearing.

Ms. Andrade informed the board that some of the fence work necessary for opening the stray building to the public will occur at the end of the month.

A. Discuss waiving \$20 adoption fee to 501(c)3 organizations (**Jim Rich**)

Jim Rich discussed exempting organizations that have a veterinarian that is on-call or scheduled periodically or could submit a letter from a veterinarian or for rescues that are permitted by DAS or have a long term partnership with DAS from the \$20.00 rescue adoption fee. He stated that the \$20.00 can't be considered a revenue stream for DAS and that money is saved in vaccines, food and euthanasia costs every time an animal is taken from DAS by a rescue group.

Darcy Andrade stated that DAS is looking at reducing adoption fees across the board. If an animal is adoptable, rescue groups will have to pay the adoption fee. If

an animal is not adoptable (too young, too old, sick) rescue groups will not have to pay a fee.

VII. Public Comment

Phyllis Estes discussed Sunday adoption hours. Ms. Estes stated that people who want to adopt a pet on a Sunday just go to pet stores, etc. If the county opens DAS, maybe the surgery suite could be used for spay/neuter surgery. VSA (Volunteer Service for Animals) ran Planned Pethood for a number of years.

Brad Estes discussed the ventilation system and ceiling fans. **Darcy Andrade** explained that first, the original ventilation system will be repaired so that it works correctly and then it will be reviewed to determine if it is sufficient. Fans were recommended by the University of Florida. **Mr. Estes** expressed concern that the ventilation system will drag into the next fiscal year. He wants to be sure that it doesn't.

Midori Beck inquired if anyone has pursued obtaining grants for comfort items and enrichment items. **Ms. Andrade** stated that DAS would apply for grants if there are any opportunities.

Bridget Bannon spoke in support of VSA's bid to perform spay/neuter surgeries at DAS on Sundays.

VIII. Advisory Board Member Comments

James Seabasty discussed positive feedback at the budget hearing and thanked volunteers for attending.

Marjorie Bloom stated that she really hopes Sunday hours happen and inquired if it would make sense to close one day during the week.

Michael Simonik advised that the Humane Society did a Sunday pilot and adoptions increased, stating that many times, Sundays are busier than Saturdays.

Marjorie Bloom inquired if the heating system will be repaired along with the ventilation system. **Kyra Lynch** advised that the heating system is also being worked on.

Ms. Bloom stated that the Bordatella vaccine seems to really be working and asked if all dogs could receive the rabies vaccine prior to entering Adoptions. **Ms. Lynch** stated that all altered animals receive the rabies vaccine prior to going into Adoptions. **Ms. Bloom** wanted to know if the Board should hold a workshop prior to the next budget hearing. The consensus was that the Board should attend the hearing, but not speak at it.

Jim Rich apologized for being unable to attend the Budget Hearing and thanked **Brad Estes** for speaking at the hearing. He also discussed For the Love of Cats and the Seniors for Seniors program. Between DAS and the Humane Society, 29 cats have been adopted this year and over 100 cats total have been adopted through the program.

September 15, 2015

Aimee Leteux asked if the open positions at DAS are paid positions or volunteer positions and was advised that they are full-time, paid positions.

Michael Simonik stated that 801 animals have been transferred from DAS to HSN this year. 319 cats, 444 dogs, the rest were others (rabbits, guinea pigs, etc.)

Jim Rich moved to adjourn. Motion received a second and was carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled Advisory Board Meeting will be November 17th at 6:30 in the Domestic Animal Training Room, Davis Blvd., Naples, Florida.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 7:28 PM.

COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES

Chairman Michael Simonik

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