

**Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB)
Approved Minutes for March 21st, 2007 Meeting**

Present ASAB Members: Daniel Textoris, Kristine Bergstrand, Ross Oglesbee, Pat Sanford, Caroline Green, Bonnie Norwood, James Kramer, and Susan Elmore.

Absent ASAB Members: DeWana Anderson, Moses Carey and Jean Connerat Austin

Others in Attendance: Animal Services Director Bob Marotto, Animal Shelter Operations Manager Jessica Allison, Animal Control Manager Irene Paul and Administrative Assistant Andi Morgan.

Public Members Present: Beth Livingstone of Animal Kind

Welcome and Opening Comments—Chair of the ASAB Committee, Kristine Bergstrand

Motion was made by Ross Oglesbee and seconded by Caroline Green to approve the Agenda dated March 21, 2007. **VOTE:** Unanimous

Motion was made by James Kramer and seconded by Ross Oglesbee to approve the minutes dated February 21, 2007. **VOTE:** Unanimous

General Public Comment—None

Unfinished Business--

Tethering Committee--Bob Marotto reported that the committee has met twice and another meeting is scheduled for April 11th, 2007. The other commitment that the committee has made is to have another meeting at the end of April to gather public input from residents throughout the county. The committee is expected to complete its work and present it's findings and recommendations to this body by the beginning of June and then go through a deliberation process and decide what, if any, changes shall go to the BOCC. Pat Sanford mentioned that NC Animal Law Committee has submitted a bill that has been redrafted which she will e-mail to Bob Marotto to share with others. It was recommended by Kristine Bergstrand that the committee consider drafting a letter as a Board in support of the bill. The bill will be tracked and it could come back for review and discussion at future meetings.

Keeping of Wild Animals Ordinance Task Force-- Ross Oglesbee reported that the Task Force has met twice and that it is moving forward.. Each member has been given assignments to gather lots of information to bring back to the task force to review and discuss. Kindra Mammonne has come to both meetings and has offered to be a resource and invited committee members to come to her home to see how she cares for the animals. It was requested that a copy of the Ordinance from the Clerk's office be obtained that describes the sizes of cages required for each type of animal.

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New Animal Services Facility--Bob Marotto gave an update along two tracks. The first is one for design process and the status of that is the architect and engineer have finalized the preliminary draft of the building program and a completed a preliminary version of needs assessment in relationship to the building program. This was circulated electronically to members of the Design Committee for an upcoming meeting scheduled March 29th, 2007. Materials shared are a set of quick facts to compare the present operation with the facility that is being designed in terms of overall square footage and animal enclosures. Also included is a site strategy and rough concept of design of the footprint of the building. There will be a detailed discussion of all of these items at the Design Committee meeting and the hope is that matters can come to closure so that the design team can go on to the schematic design stage. There is some peer review being done of the documents one of the peer reviewers will be Kate Pullen and the second has not been decided yet. The purpose of the reviewers is to have someone to proof materials and to make certain nothing has been missed. The second track is a regulatory track, which involves the Town of Chapel Hill zoning issues. The concept presentation was given to Town of Chapel Hill Council and direct feedback was given along with various questions. The process is moving forward in order to stay on track with the timeline.

A discussion was held suggesting that there be two holding areas in the new facility, one for adoptable animals and one for non- adoptable animals. It was stressed that healthy animals and non-healthy animals not be held together and that there needs to be as much flexibility as possible in the design of these area.

Animal Services Fee Study- Bob Marotto made two specific requests based on the last meeting. One is that penalty for persons not licensing be reconsidered and increased from \$50.00 to \$200.00. A motion was made by Pat Sanford and seconded by Caroline Green to increase the licensing fee from recommended \$100.00 be increased to \$200.00. **VOTE: Unanimous**

The second item was not included in the fee study and should have been. It is for the fees associated with the two kennel permits (Class 1 and Class 2) issued by Animal Control. They are presently \$25.00 a year. A motion was made by James Kramer and seconded by Ross Oglesbee to increase the fee from \$25.00 to \$50.00 for both types of permits. **VOTE: Unanimous**. A second motion was made by James Kramer and seconded by Pat Sanford to reassess this at a future date to make certain that we are recovering cost for inspections as part of the budget review for next year **VOTE: Unanimous**

New Business-

Motion was made by Ross Oglesbee and seconded by Pat Sanford to change current Agenda to allow Beth Livingston to speak. **VOTE: Unanimous**.

Beth Livingston had contacted Bob Marotto in the past and wanted to give a presentation to the committee to talk about the \$20 Fix program and rather or not there is a way for Orange County to work with the \$20 Fix program to support low cost sterilization in the community. Beth gave a

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summary about Animal Kind and the \$20 Fix program and explained that they are a nonprofit organization that started the \$20 Fix program in 2004. They currently serve five counties and to date they have spay/neutered approximately 3400 animals. They depend fully on private donations to fund this program. Upon launching an educational campaign, they discovered that it wasn't so much an educational issue- that people were already aware of the benefits of having their animals spay or neutered and wanted to have that done but could not afford to pay the cost associated with the surgery. They realize they are not able to meet the demand due to the lack of funding needed for this program and would like to partner with government agencies. The goal is to end euthanasia. Bob Marotto suggest that the committee take the presentation under advisement and think of some options and return to it at coming meetings. If the group comes to the conclusion that the partnership is appropriate, the question would be what ways could support be provided.

*Bob Marotto gave an overview of a proposal to create a fund of money that can be used in various ways to address the issue of pet overpopulation in the county on the basis of resources from the differential licensing fee. A motion was made by Ross Oglesbee and seconded by Pat Sanford to endorse the use of the \$20 increase for the license fee for intact animals for a dedicated spay/neuter fund. **VOTE:** Unanimous*

Bob Marotto introduced Andi Morgan hired for the Administrative Assistant position at the Franklin Street office. Comments were received for the qualifications and considerations for the selection process for the Shelter Manager Position. The comments have been assembled and a batch of applicants has been received. The first step will be a set of initial interviews. Then a short list of candidates will be created for a second round of interviews with a panel of people, one of which will be Chair Kristine Bergstrand, DVM. The goal is to make a final decision by early May.

*Motion was made by Ross Oglesbee and seconded by Daniel Textoris to adjourn meeting at 9:15 p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous.*

Next ASAB Meeting: *Wednesday, April 18th, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, Economic Development Center, 110 E. King Street, Hillsborough..*