

Orange County Animal Services
1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
919-942-PETS (7387)
ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (ASAB)
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 15, 2020
Meeting Summary

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amanda Schwoerke (Chair), Bryan Stuart (Vice Chair), Casey Ferrell (Secretary), Diane Obeid, Lee Pickett, Lucia Welborne, Molly Mullin, Maureane Hoffman

ABSENT: Beth Grooms, Lisa Wells, Edmund Tiryakian

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Marotto (Animal Services Director), Andi Morgan (Animal Services Assistant Director), Rachel Plast (AA)

Call to order: 6:35 p.m.

Review and adoption of the agenda: approved, with removal of New Business Item “Stats and Review,” and addition of 2020 Spay Day

Summary of November 2019 meeting: approved, with amendments proposed by Lee Pickett to Evelyn Daniel spelling and updates to the CERT summary

Review of public participation guidelines: not reviewed

General public comments on items not on agenda: none

Animal Services Advisory Board updates:

Pat Sanford Award—Kimberly Steiner, Trestle Leaf Web Design

- Board and staff presented Kimberly Steiner with the Pat Sanford Award

Animal Services Hearing Panel Pool

- Motion to nominate Edmund Tiryakian for a second term approved (unanimous)
- Outstanding Recommendation for the Animal Services Hearing Panel Pool
 - Motion to nominate Casey Ferrell approved (unanimous)

Board Vacancies

- Two current vacancies: 1) veterinarian, 2) Town of Carrboro
- Three vacancies opening in July: 1) Animal trainer and 2) Animal welfare advocate (2)
 - Sue Millager (Carrboro)
 - Sunita Driehuys (vet)

- Allan Polak (trainer)
- Jen Stout (welfare advocate)
- Brenda Scott (welfare advocate)
- Motion to approve Sue Millager for the Town of Carrboro board vacancy approved (unanimous)
- Motion to approve Sunita for the community veterinarian board vacancy *pending her submission of a formal application* approved (unanimous)
- Diversity Goal: a brief discussion of the goal of achieving greater board diversity; primarily around continued outreach by staff and board members to people of different backgrounds

Old Business

- Evelyn Daniel Adoption Sponsorship Fund
 - Bryan Stuart stated the need to settle on a single consistent name for the fund. Bob Marotto indicated that there was also a need for guidelines on the explicit purpose and allocation of the fund.
 - A couple of examples of possible applications were discussed, including using the money for life-saving but sometimes cost-prohibitive surgeries and procedures.
 - Casey Ferrell suggested the board consider naming it the Evelyn Daniel 11th Hour Fund and have the money go toward animals in dire need of life-saving treatments.
 - Staff agreed to draft a formal name, mission statement and application criteria and bring to the board for approval at the February meeting.
- Wild and Dangerous Task Force
 - Bryan Stuart said that between the holidays and other board responsibilities that had taken temporary priority, the task force's work is still ongoing. He is planning to bring a status update to the February board meeting.
- Tick Borne Illnesses and Rabies
 - Edmund Tiryakian not present to discuss
 - Topic retired from Old Business unless otherwise suggested

New Business

- Spay Day
 - Motion to approve Spay & Neuter Day approved (unanimous)

Animal Services Updates

- OCAS selected for Cat Positive (program for training shelter personnel to interact with cats in new and different ways using operant conditioning to improve quality of life)
- Two catios are now onsite
- Upcoming veterinary healthcare assessment
 - Anticipating completion in time to include financial implications into 2021 budget request
- Budget prep underway
 - Continuation budget could place more emphasis on revenue generation efforts
- Updates related to October animal seizure
 - Gift of 7,500 lbs of dog food from Southern States (holiday donations)
 - Cat Banjo made a donation

- GoFundMe campaign (prompted by MicroMass Communication in Raleigh): \$10k in four days
- Original 57 animals turned into 76 thanks to several litters
- All dogs are now property of OCAS
- Out of pocket costs to OCAS so far: ~\$30-35k
 - Because of donations and campaigns (\$10k GoFundMe, \$11k individual pledge, \$6k donated by Cat Banjo, etc.), OCAS will approach breakeven on cost
- Lucia volunteered to draft a letter of recognition from the OCASAB to the BOCC for efforts by OCAS, BOCC, County Manager, Sheriff, DA, etc.
 - Will share a draft of the letter at the February meeting
- On the verge of making the dogs available for adoption
 - Media release to come
 - Special website dedicated to information and support for adopters specifying special needs (medical, financial, legal, etc.)
 - Will release in batches
 - Secondary interview and other additional precautionary elements of adoption process and package to be in place
- Discussion topic introduced by Bob Marotto: Great Pyrenees being kept as protection animals/livestock guarding for small-scale farming operations; suspicion many are not kept in adequate housing; argument made by one farmer that housing creates problems (livestock go to shelter, Pyrenees guard the shelter, aggressive to livestock); in northern climates and native regions, Pyrenees live outside and thrive in cold weather
 - Should there be an exception to the ordinance for certain working livestock guard dogs like Pyrenees
 - Motion to take it up as an agenda item approved (unanimously)

Adjournment and next meeting: Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m. The next meeting is February 19, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at the Orange County Animal Services Center.