

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, July 15, 2020**  
**Meeting Summary**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Amanda Schwoerke (Chair), Bryan Stuart (Vice Chair), Casey Ferrell (Secretary), Lee Pickett, Lucia Welborne, Edmund Yiryakian, Sue Millager, Sunita Driehuys,

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bob Marotto (Animal Services Director), Rachel Plast (AA), Cooper Hatch (PC)

**FORMER MEMBERS:** Maureane Hoffman, Molly Mullin, Diane Obeid

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**Call to order:** 6:35 p.m.

**Review and adoption of the agenda:** approved

**Summary of February 2019 meeting:** approved

**Review of public participation guidelines:** not reviewed

**General public comments on items not on agenda:** none

**Monthly Meeting Attendance Record (confirm completion):** confirmed

**Thank you to retiring members: Beth Grooms, Maureen Hoffman, Molly Mullin, and Diane Obeid**

- Chairperson Schwoerke offered remarks in gratitude of the service and dedication of the outgoing board members
  - “These will be incredibly hard shoes to fill”

**Animal Services Advisory Board updates:**

- **ASAB Appointment Updates**
  - No new updates
- **Board vacancies**
  - Animal welfare advocate (2)
  - Pet-related business owner/manager
    - Recommendation: Susan Spinks
  - At-large non-municipality

- Animal trainer position
  - Recommendation: Allan Polak
- Motion to approve nomination of Susan Spinks and Allan Polak to the ASAB: approved unanimously
- Discussion with new applicant for animal advocate position
  - Lori Gershon, animal welfare advocate position

### **Animal Hearing Panel Pool**

- Casey Ferrell approved to join Ed T. and Amanda S. as the third member of the Animal Hearing Panel Pool
- BOCC amended the general policy; members of the Hearing Panel Pool are beholden to the code of ethics for [the GoToMeeting signal dropped off briefly; not sure I missed anything substantive]

### **Animal Services during the pandemic**

- Overview
  - At the onset of pandemic, there was an open question of whether animal services were essential services. That was quickly resolved and OCAS deemed essential, allowing it to continue to operate. Circumstances drove significant innovation to assure continuity of service. Hard choices included suspension of low-cost rabies vaccination program; anticipate possible resumption of the program in the fall. Also suspended spay/neuter programs. Also had to manage shelter population and intake; asking the community to lessen the burden on the shelter has been successful in reducing shelter load.
  - Intake for 2Q20: 42% fewer animals than 2Q19.
  - Shelter population on July 3, 2020: 209 vs. July 2: 2019: 291
- Kitten Intake Program
  - Working to avoid taking in unweaned kittens and keep those animals with their mothers
  - Sterilization of adult cats (Working Cat Program) works in coordination with
- New Foster Program
  - 92 foster families; adopted out 55 cats from foster; doing virtual meet-and-greets
- Pet Food and Vet Care Assistance Initiatives
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### **Structural Racism and Animal Welfare**

- Lee Pickett led discussion of the inequalities, inequities, and evidence of systemic bias toward people of color in the world of animal services, access to veterinary care, etc.
- Next step: Lee to send a note to ASAP asking members to express whether they have interest in the topic to warrant further discussion in a next ASAB meeting

**Adjournment and next meeting:** Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.