

ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Date: 3/18/2026

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM

Roll Call:

All Board Members Present: Ethelyn Riley (Chair), Karen Gaskins (Co-Chair), Courtney Pearce (Director of Paws, Inc.-non-voting member), Dr. Joe April Brown, Danielle Saunders, Matt Gilbert, Donna McGinnis, Anna-Claire Daniels, Kirven Boyce\

Discussion:

The chair expressed surprise that a complete re-do had been done on the Ordinances without any input from the ASAB. She passed out an article from National Animal Care and Control Association, and an article written by Dr. Cynthia L Karsten, DVM, Director of Outreach, UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program. Both articles dealt with the realities of shelter life for an animal. She questioned the ability of a Municipal Shelter to truly be able to meet "No Kill" standards and still meet the obligations of a Municipal Shelter.

Courtney stated she did not disagree with all that Ethelyn said but was surprised in a previous conversation that Ethelyn expressed the idea that Animal Services should be picking up all stray animals. She stated she did not want to be a "dog catcher"; she wants to be pro-active as opposed to re-active. She stated that these proposed ordinances will put Animal Services in a better position to do that. She voiced concerns over the urgency of having up-to-date ordinances. She recognized that Ethelyn was upset about the ASAB not being involved in the process.

Discussion followed concerning Best Friends. Discussion also brought up the question as to why the UGA School of Law, which had offered to help us with the ordinances, did nothing from November to the present. Ethelyn sent emails in January and February referencing the ordinances, but they went unanswered.

Charmaine Crabb reiterated the fact that the Board represents the City Council; the Board answers to the City Council and is much needed.

The meeting then turned its attention to electing officers.

Karen Gaskins made a motion that Ethelyn Riley serve another term as Chair. Kirven Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed with one dissenting vote.

Ethelyn announced the next meeting for Wednesday, March 25 at 10:00 AM in the Betty Van Cleave Room at the Columbus Public Library.

Courtney suggested an email thread that would include Lucy Sheftall.

Motion was made to adjourn at 4:30 PM

