

**Columbus Consolidated Government**

**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Animal Control Advisory Board**

**October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**6:00 pm**

**Location of Meeting:**

Citizen Services Center- Council Chambers

3111 Citizens Way

Columbus, GA, 31906

**Present at Meeting:**

Contreana Pearson

Jayne Dunn

Lindsey Ellis

Sabine Stull

Carla Anthony

Kristi Ludy

Patricia Montgomery

Julee Fryer

Michael

Marissa Beisner (Recording Clerk)

Dr. Hall (Guest)

The quarterly meeting of the Animal Control Advisory Board of Columbus Consolidated Government was called to order at 6:00pm on Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Council Chambers of the City Services Building by chair Sabine Stull.

The meeting was opened by Sabine Stull with an explanation of why the Advisory Board was created and the structure of the members. All members were introduced by name and the organization they represent, if applicable.

All voting members present voted to approve minutes from the quarterly meeting held on June 18, 2020.

## Agenda Items

### 1. Board Member Questions

Carla Anthony began with a series of questions presented to her by citizens stemming from concerns following a recent incident at the Animal Care and Control Center.

Can an area be made available to isolate sick animals? Are all spaces in cat room and puppy room routinely used? Could conference room be repurposed to a holding area for healthy cats?

Dr. Hall answered this question by first introducing himself and explaining his position within ACC. He then stated that ACC intakes many young animals in varying states of health. Most come in with no vaccinations and emaciated. Dr. Hall continued that even in perfect settings and ideal conditions that animals will be lost. Rescues are reached out to for very young animals due to lack of staffing available to provide the care needed. Loss within litters can happen even in a veterinary office setting.

Is the cat room too cold?

Morning temperature may be slightly cooler due to lower morning temperature and lack of lighting and activity. ACC is not a treatment facility and should be thought of as a holding facility.

Is physical conditions of animals assessed upon arrival?

Dr. Hall states that the animals receive multiple checks throughout the day. Walk throughs are performed in rounds and staff are on the lookout for things such as runny noses, blood, and poor hygiene. Emergencies could be walked over to PAWS immediately if necessary.

How are surrendered animals evaluated for aggression?

Dr. Hall stated that animals are evaluated by Valerie and Tiffany and will be placed into the Quarantine room. At this time a member of the audience interjected to say that she had adopted a white shepard that ACC had deemed as aggressive and that the dog was adjusting well in her home and has shown no signs of aggression in her house. Board member Lindsey Ellis then stated that she had visited the dog and was unable to get the dog out of the run. Lindsey continued that she felt the dogs aggression stemmed from fear of surroundings. Board member Sabine states that she was also unsuccessful in removing the dog from her run.

Volunteers are interested in more training and education. Can they attend PAWS volunteer training?

Patricia Montgomery from PAWS answered that they would be more than happy to share their training and that they offer both in person and online training.

2. Discussion of “proposed ordinance” regulating the sale of puppies.

Tricia began discussion about exploring options to work cooperatively with PetLand. Rescues hope to provide the animals instead of the selling of puppies and kittens. Discussion will be based off of a model currently used in Canada PetLand. Asks members of board to table discussion of ordinance for now. All members agree to table discussion of proposed ordinance.

At this time board member Julee spoke about her time volunteering with ACC and Animal SOS and the improvements made at ACC since 2012. Directed several questions about ACC policies and procedures for front and back of house. Asked about use of Save A Pet Booklet. Contreana Pearson informed the board of ACC 10 day to correct policy to educate and correct issues and providing Pets for Life program. Tricia stated that everyone is doing what they can and that we are all working towards the same goal. Advisors on the board do not make the laws. If there any questions from citizens, please just ask.

At this time the board took the opportunity to thank long-term serving member Karla Anthony. Karla spoke about her introduction to the board following the passing of another member in 2013 and that she has since served two terms. She expressed that the board is doing a phenomenal job and that she thinks the volunteers and rescues are amazing.

Lindsey Ellis then asked Michael how we could give citizens more of a voice and where should they direct their questions? Michael stated that emails and phone calls are preferred and that it is not productive to air these things out on FaceBook. Julee Fryer than made a statement about having conversations with Contreana Pearson in the past and feels she has taken the appropriate steps before and been hung up on. Contreana Pearson then responded that she could be reached at anytime. Citizens can voice their opinions can be added to the agenda for the Advisory Board Meetings. Sabine also stated that she could be contacted to be added to the agenda.

At 6:46 the meeting was adjourned.

C: Clerk of Council

ACAB Members