

Columbus Consolidated Government
Minutes of the Meeting of the Animal Control
Advisory Board
August 3, 2021
6:30 pm

Location of Meeting:

Public Works Building
Driver's Training Room
610 – 11th Avenue
Columbus, GA 31903

Present at Meeting:

Contreana Pearson
Lindsey Ellis
Channon Emery
Sabine Stull
Patricia Montgomery
Dr. Jean Waguespack

The meeting of the Animal Control Advisory Board of Columbus Consolidated Government was called to order at 6: 32pm on August 3, 2021 in the Public Works Building by Sabine Stull.

Agenda Items

1. Dangerous Dog Classification Hearing

Contreana Pearson opened the discussion for the classification hearing referring to the Breeden biting incident. All Board Members were asked to refer to their detailed packets for bite information, pictures, bite reports, and citations for the dogs. Ms. Pearson told the Board that one of the dog's, King, in the biting incident had previously bitten, refer to their package for details. Ms. Pearson advised the Board; Animal Control is usually called to the hospital once a bite

victim is rendered care or called out to the house when the bite happens. This bite incident, Animal Control was called to the house by the bite victim after treatment. Ms. Pearson advised the Board members, the responding Animal Control Officer Andre Burkes would give his accounts of the incident.

Animal Control Officer Andre Burkes stated, he received a call from E911 on July 4, 2021 approximately 2:00 pm in reference to a dog bite, at the address 1071 Dunbar Avenue. Officer Burkes was told by the bite victim's daughter, Rosalind Alston, would be speaking for her mother because she is 83 years old and has some memory loss. Ms. Alston stated, her mother, Ms. Kathleen Thomas was walking down the street on Melrose Drive and 2 pitt bulls were loose in the yard of 3204 Melrose Drive. The dogs King and Queenie came off the property onto the street and attacked her. The dogs pushed her to the ground and began to bite her on her right and left arm. Her mother was transported to the hospital by the owner of the dogs Dale Breeden. Officer Burkes was not able to take photos of the bite because the wounds were already treated and wrapped. Kathleen Thomas identified the owner, Dale Breeden and the bite victim's daughter signed to press charges. The dog owner Dale Breeden was cited for 2 counts of Section 5-10d (3), snap, bite, threat.

The victim, Kathleen Thomas was accompanied by her two daughters, Rosalind Alston and Smithie Vaughn. Ms. Alston stated her mother was attacked by the Breeden's dogs and she was aware the dog had bitten someone in the neighborhood previously. Ms. Alston told her mother to show the Board Members her hematoma that she developed from the bite. Ms. Alston stated her mother will have to have extensive treatment because of the bite wounds. Her mother was bit on her right arm, left arm and received 7 stitches in her arm. Ms. Vaughn stated she did not understand why Dale Breeden (dog owner) took her mother to the emergency room without calling her family. She stated, Ms. Breeden did not tell the emergency room personnel it was a dog bite. They feel like these animals should be classified because they came off the property and attacked her mother. Ms. Alston shared colored photos of the bite and the hospital records of her mother, Kathleen Thomas. Ms. Alston stated, now her mother is afraid to leave her home,

The owner, Dale Breeden and her husband Darius Breeden came in to speak to the Board. Ms. Breeden stated she was bringing her dogs out around the corner of her home and the dogs got away from her. She saw Ms. Thomas on the ground. Ms. Breeden stated she does not believe the dog bit Mrs. Thomas. She stated the dogs may have knocked her down and was standing over her. She stated, she took Ms. Thomas to the hospital with her permission and could not get a phone number from her to call her family. Darius Breeden shared colored photos of the home whereas he has purchased two secure kennel runs in the backyard. He stated, he does not believe the dogs did substantial damage to Ms. Thomas.

The Board voted at the end of the meeting to not classify the dog as a 'dangerous' dog.

******ACTION TAKEN: BOARD MEMBERS DECLINED DOG CLASSIFICATION; 3 VOTING BOARD MEMBERS VOTED YES TO OVERTURN THE CLASSIFICATION AND 2 NO VOTES BY DR. JEAN WAGUESPACK AND SABINE STULL.***

Time of Next Meeting

The next quarterly scheduled meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on September 14, 2021, Virtual Meeting via Teams through Animal Control Care & Control Center Facebook Page

Sabine Stull adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

C: Clerk of Council

ACAB Members

