

Columbus Consolidated Government

Minutes of a Quarterly Meeting

Animal Control Advisory Board

December 13, 2022

5:30 pm

Location of Meeting:

Public Works Driver's Training Room

602 – 11th Avenue Bldg E

Columbus, GA, 31901

Work Discussion/Ordinance Amendment

Present at Meeting:

Contreana Pearson

Jayne Dunn

Sabine Stull, Chairperson

Raymond Culpepper

Kristi Ludy

Dr. Scott McDermott

Courtney Pierce

Julee Fryer Co-Chairperson

Drale Short

Channon Emery

Patricia Montgomery

Absent from Meeting:

Dr. Scott McDermott

The quarterly meeting of the Animal Control Advisory Board of Columbus Consolidated Government was called to order at 5:42 pm on Tuesday December 13, 2022, by the chairperson Sabine Stull.

Approval of the minutes from the board meetings on **10/31/2022**; Raymond Culpepper made a motion to approve the minutes and Jayne Dunn second the motion. *****ACTION TAKEN: ALL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVAL MINUTES FROM BOARD MEETING 12.13.22**

Agenda Items

1. Monthly Reports

Contreana Pearson asked if there were any questions about the monthly reports form August 2022, October 2022, and November 2022. There were no questions for the board members put forward.

2. Animal in Crates ACC

Contreana Pearson referred the board members to the Georgia Department of Agricultural Inspection Report in their packets. She stated the inspector came down to speak with the internal auditor and did a routine inspection in the building. The inspector found a violation of structural strength. Animal Control was found to have 12 dogs in crates more than 24 hours. Contreana Pearson read the structural strength definition to the board. Contreana Pearson stated the usage of crates started July 4, because a lot of dogs got out because of the firecrackers for the 4th of July holiday. She also stated, it was taxing on the staff, increase costs for vaccines, medical and food for the dogs. Julee Fryer stated she was out at Animal Control when all the crates were present, and it was very difficult cleaning on the staff. She planned a re inspection on November 22, 2022. Animal Control passed the re-inspection. She refereed the board members and the people in the audience that the inspection report is listed on the Animal Care & Control website for public viewing.

3. Animals Returned in Field

Channon Emery asked if the field officers scan for microchips. Contreana Pearson stated ye, all Animal Control Officers have scanners in their trucks as well as the shelter staff. Contreana Pearson informed the board members officers are still returning in the field when possible. If chip has not been changed, notification door hangers are left. Animal Control still has a severe shortage in Animal Control Officers, full staff is 10 there are only 5 Officers.

4. Discussion Ordinance Amendment

Sabine Stull stated, she has done some more research and found, tethering animals for long periods of time, a dog can die. Sabine Stull passed around paperwork for board members to see pictures of detrimental trolley systems that have harmed dogs. Raymond Culpepper stated we need to find a solution instead of total ban. Something that can work in our area. Jayne Dunn stated in Cobb County they have banned tethering. If changed to completely ban, how would they enforce it. Contreana Pearson stated that would be very taxing on her staff as well the citizens that don't have fences or allow dogs in their homes will end up at Animal Control. She states, the amendment should be suitable for inside and outside dogs.

Drale Short told the board everyone needs to get on the same page before submission to the City Attorney. More research needs to be done and the wording conducive to passage before the Council, otherwise it will not be passed. Boards members also stated they wanted to see how the community feels about a change. Contreana Pearson recommended a work session meeting and all board members bring information from other counties/cities to see their workable ordinances.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15:pm The next scheduled work session is Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 2:30pm.

C: Clerk of Council, ACAB Members