

Animal Services Board Meeting

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 04/10/2025

Time: 3:00 PM - 4:05 PM

Location: Columbus Library Synovus Room "A"

Facilitator: Ethelyn Riley

Note taker: _____

ATTENDEES

Ethelyn Riley (Chair)
Karen Gaskins (Co-Chair)
Channon Emery (Recording Secretary)
Courtney Pierce (Executive Director Paws & Paws animal services)
Anna-Claire Daniels (Citizen, Animal SOS)
Matt Gilbert (Citizen, Animal Trainer)
Kirven Boyce (Citizen)
Donna McGinnis (Citizen, Internal Auditor)
Danielle Saunders (Citizen, Georgia Department of Public Health)

ABSENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item #1: Updated Ordinances

Details: 1st reading was completed by city council 04-09-2025 2nd reading will resume 04-22-2025

Final Reading will be completed 05-06-2025

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Transition Update

Details: Courtney Pierce: Transitioning for the new building has not been taken lightly, the community's help is key along with rescue partnering to help move dogs to safety.

As of April 14th, 2025, full staff has been accomplished; Animal Service Officers are always needed.

Improvements to the building have and will continue to be underway until complete improvements such as Baffling on the ceiling providing sound absorption, new Kennel doors providing safety for the animals as well as the community, new fencing providing play areas, private areas to meet with the animals.

Item #2: SOP's

Details: Paws Animal Service Divisions will mirror Paws Humane SOP'S already in place with a few adjustments to accommodate the needs.

They provide high-volume and high-quality spay/neuter, rescue and adoption services. They provide quality care for the entirety of their stay with no time limit.

Item #3: New Business Hours

Details: Address: 4900 Milgen Rd, Columbus, GA 31907

Phone:(706)565-0035

Office Hours:

Sunday 1-5 PM

Monday 10AM-7 PM

Tuesday 10 AM-7 PM

Wednesday 10 AM-7 PM

Thursday 10 AM-7 PM

Friday 10 AM-5 PM

Saturday 10 AM-5 PM

Item #4: Emergency Calls for Animal Services

Details: Emergencies due to high volume has to serve as a call to call basis. Placement for space continues to be an issue.

Emergency Officer Hours: 7AM to 12AM

After Hours Emergency Call Hours: 12AM to 7AM

Item #5: Rescue Partners

Details: Paws Humane is actively looking to partner with local and out of state rescues to bring safety to the animals, fully vaccinated, spay & neuter, microchipped, transport available.

Item #6: Citizens' Questions and Concerns

Details: Allie Johnson: Will there be live televised opportunity to those who cannot attend a meeting?

Ethelyn Riley answered: It is not required where the board is no longer a governed entity. The board will, however, continue to work alongside City Council for guidance.

Mimi Stegar: Inquired about a 5-year plan opportunity as outlined with Dekalb County? Courtney Pierce answered: The structures on a 5-year plan have been in place and will continue to be followed.

Item #7: Rescue & Reunite

Details: Strays will be checked for chips in the field; if found to be chipped contact will be made. Attempts will be made by checking with neighborhood to find the animals home before entering Paws Animal Division. Citizens can check and file a Lost/Found report on Paws Website.

Local Fire Stations are equipped to scan for a microchip along with Paws Humane or any local vet office.

Item #8: Volunteers & Community Help

Details: Volunteers along with the Community are the key to any animal finding a foster, adoptive home, and or rescue. Get involved, apply to foster, find your new best friend on Paws website. Dogs love interaction along with daily walks help be their lifeline.

Join playgroups, take pictures, and video of interactions to help place them in good homes.

Minutes submitted by: Channon Emery

Signature: _____ **Date:** 04/22/2025

Minutes approved by: Ethelyn W Riley_____

Signature: *Ethelyn W Riley* **Date:** _____