

Columbus Consolidated Government

Minutes of the Virtual Special Called Meeting of the Animal Control Advisory Board

February 8, 2021

6:00 pm

Location of Meeting:

Virtual Teams Meeting via Animal Care & Control Division Facebook

Columbus, GA, 31907

Present at Meeting:

Contreana Pearson

Jayne Dunn

Dr. Jean Waguespack

Lindsey Ellis

Sabine Stull

Kristi Ludy

Patricia Montgomery

Julee Fryer

Michael Criddle

Christy Noullet

Channon Emery

The special called virtual meeting of the Animal Control Advisory Board of Columbus Consolidated Government was called to order at 6:05 pm on Wednesday February 8, 2021 via the Animal Care & Control Center Facebook Page.

The meeting was opened by Sabine Stull with an introduction of all the Animal Control Advisory Board Members. All members were asked to introduce themselves by name and the organization they represent, if applicable.

All voting members present were asked to vote on approval of the minutes from the quarterly meeting held on *October 7, 2020*. Patricia Montgomery made a motion to approve the minutes and Lindsey Ellis second the motion for approval. *****ACTION TAKEN: ALL VOTING MEMBERS APPROVAL MINUTES FROM BOARD MEETING 10.07.20.**

Agenda Items

1. New Member Orientation - Jayne Dunn

Ms. Dunn discussed being a new member and providing guidance for incoming members through a power point presentation. This included discussion of bylaws, meeting etiquette, media relations etc. Ms. Dunn will continue to work on the 'new member orientation' with the approval of the Animal Control Advisory Board members. Patricia Montgomery made a motion for Ms. Dunn to continue and Lindsey Ellis second the motion. *****ACTION TAKEN: ALL VOTING MEMBERS APPROVAL JAYNE DUNN CONTINUE WORKING NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

2. Board Member Questions – Channon Emery

Channon Emery stated a concern about a kennel technician being hired to clean the animal runs between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Contreana Pearson stated there was not a position in the Animal Control budget for a kennel technician. Ms. Pearson advised, correctional inmates from Muscogee County Prison are presently cleaning and staff.

Ms. Emery asked how does Animal Control know an animal is an actual owner surrender, what proof does the public show? Ms. Pearson stated, all surrenders, returned to owners and euthanization require a state issued identification and a signature relinquishing or attesting ownership. Items can be used as a legal document if issues arise about ownership.

Julee Fryer asked about kennel runs drains being backed up with standing water. She suggested a 'documenting' book the volunteers can write down and document issues they see.

Lindsey Ellis questioned why a severely neglected dog was given back to the owner. Ms. Pearson stated the owner was given a citation and picked up from the veterinarian's office. Ms. Pearson stated, this could be an ordinance issue, to not return the animal to the owner because of perceived cruelty. Julee Fryer stated an ordinance change and standard operating procedure is needed.

Michael Criddle stated the Animal Control can only do what the ordinance allows. He recommended that some Board members form a committee to work on amending ordinances and bring back suggestions to the Board.

Julee Fryer asked about the privatization of Animal Control. Mr. Criddle stated yes, it is in the works. Mr. Criddle deferred the question to Patricia Montgomery. Ms. Montgomery stated she was approached by a City Councilperson and later talked to Mayor Henderson about taking over Animal Control. Ms. Montgomery stated a proposal was put together by PAWS.

Contreana Pearson stated the other two items on the agenda will be tabled for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm. The next virtual quarterly meeting is Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 5:00 pm via Animal Care & Control Center Facebook page.

C: Clerk of Council, ACAB Members