

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COLLIER COUNTY
DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Naples, Florida, June 18, 2019

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, that the Collier County Domestic Animal Services Advisory Board in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 6:00 PM in REGULAR SESSION at Domestic Animal Services Training Room, Davis Blvd., Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Daniel Rheaume
VICE CHAIRMAN: Jim Rich
SECRETARY: Sarah Baeckler-Davis
Mary Baker
Marjorie Bloom
Dr. Michael Gordon
Cpl. James A. Spartz

ALSO PRESENT: Darcy Andrade, Director, DAS
Kyra Lynch, Shelter Operations Manager, DAS
Dave Fuentes, Field Operations Manager, DAS
Dr. Istvan Sinka, Shelter Veterinarian, DAS
Kellie Carroll, Administrative Assistant, DAS

I. Call to Order

Chairman Daniel Rheaume called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Attendance

A quorum was established.

III. Approval of Agenda

Sarah Baeckler-Davis made a motion to approve the agenda, there was a second and the motion passed 7-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Sarah Baeckler-Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2019 meeting, there was a second and the motion passed 7-0.

V. New Business

A. Director's Report

Darcy Andrade welcomed returning Board members Jim Rich and Jim Spartz. **Ms. Andrade** reported on the statistics from the March and April vaccine clinics and advised the Board that the hours for the July clinic would be modified because of the heat.

Ms. Andrade informed the Board that DAS has been awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant for \$262,500 to fund a generator that would power the entire facility in the event of an emergency and that DAS will also have to contribute to the cost. She also advised the Board that there has been a \$40,000 increase in the cost of the temporary air conditioning for the kennels this year.

Ms. Andrade informed the Board that since they approved the use of Donation Trust Fund money for the purchase of an x-ray machine in March, DAS has been actively soliciting funds and as of this date have collected \$11,135 in donations.

Ms. Andrade stated that beginning in August, DAS would be offering low cost spay and neuter services to the public and outlined the pricing. She said that DAS would continue to provide low cost spay and neuter services for community cats. **Ms. Andrade** also stated that DAS has applied for a spay/neuter grant through the state license plate program.

Dr. Gordon asked how the surgeries for the public would be scheduled and was advised that the appointments would be scheduled through the Vet Clinic.

Kyra Lynch thanked **Dr. Gordon** for his recent assistance with thirteen (13) animals that were brought to DAS as part of an eviction/hoarding case that occurred while **Dr. Sinka** while away for training. **Ms. Lynch** informed the Board that Megan Hatten has been promoted to Senior Animal Care Specialist and that some new Animal Care Specialists are in the process of on-boarding as well.

Dr. Sinka advised that DAS is working each month to improve the vaccine clinics and announced that people can now pre-register for the clinics.

Dave Fuentes told the board that DAS is working with the State Attorney's Office to bring animal cruelty charges for the puppy that was recently posted on Facebook.

Darcy Andrade introduced Danielle Somerville, the new Animal Services Program Coordinator, who was in the audience.

B. Review of Community Cats

Jim Rich thanked the cat rescue groups that attended the meeting and read prepared remarks about DAS' community cat program and the Million Cat Challenge.

Public Comment

Susie Mehas discussed Florida state requirements for stray holds and the DAS mission statement. **Ms. Mehas** stated that she would like more public outreach and expressed concerns that cat and dogs are not being treated equally.

VII. Old Business

A. Shelter Design and Renovation

A notice to proceed has been issued for the shelter design. The plan is to build one new building at a time. The schematic design is due by July 18, 2019. **Ms. Andrade** is hopeful that it will be available for review at the July meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

Tom Kepp discussed the collection of fines and stated that the county is not able to collect fines and fees when citations are issued.

Dan Rheume asked what happens when citations are issued and **Darcy Andrade** described the collections process. **Mr. Rheume** asked if there is any way to track the payments and was advised that they are tracked at DAS.

Dan Rheume made a motion to add citation fee collections to the next agenda, there was a second and the motion passed 7-0.

IX. Advisory Board Member Comments

Dan Rheume stated that DAS has a three-pronged mission and that DAS is doing an outstanding job following the law, on strays and adoptions and working to end pet overpopulation through spay and neuter.

Susie Mehas said that she likes the mission but believes that it isn't happening, and that DAS needs to find owners for the cats, not put them out in the county.

Darcy Andrade stated that many of the people who bring in these strays are willing and want to take them back to their neighborhood.

Jim Rich recommended that Ms. Mehas visit the Million Cat Challenge website.

Marjorie Bloom stated that she spoke with Cameron Moore from the Million Cat Challenge and found it very enlightening. She said that she finds that the mentality of many cat owners is that cats are disposable and that she has been at DAS when there are over 300 cats at the facility. She advised that she is 100% on board and that DAS is getting out of the problem and into the solution.

Ms. Bloom advised that DAS needs a full-time marketing person and that currently a volunteer is doing a fantastic job promoting DAS on social media.

Ms. Bloom made a motion to add the issue of a dedicated marketing person to the next meeting, there was a second and the motion passed 7-0.

Dan Rheume asked if Humane Society Naples has a marketing person and **Sarah Baeckler-Davis** advised that Humane Society Naples has six (6) people on their outreach/fundraising/community affairs department.

Mary Baker recommended that everyone look at the Million Cat Challenge website for more information on community cats. **Ms. Baker** also stated that she could provide information on the stress level on cats in a shelter environment.

Dr. Gordon stated that he appreciated the cat groups in the audience and the work that they do. He said that while he was assisting at DAS he was stunned by how well everyone handled the animals.

Jim Rich thanked the cat groups that attended the meeting.

Sarah Baeckler-Davis stated that it seems that more education on the laws is needed and that may be something to consider as part of a new position. **Ms. Baeckler-Davis** encouraged DAS staff to give the Board a list of needs so that the Board may assist. She also advised the rescue group members to take care of themselves, especially during the very busy kitten season.

Dr. Gordon made a motion to adjourn, there was a second and the motion passed 7-0.

The next regularly scheduled Advisory Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Domestic Animal Training Room, Davis Blvd., Naples, Florida.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was concluded at 7:00 p.m.

COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES



Chairman Daniel Rheume

These minutes approved by Board/Committee on 7/16/19 as presented or as amended _____.