

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

Naples, Florida, April 20, 2021

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 the South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway, Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Jim Rich
VICE CHAIRMAN: Sarah Baeckler-Davis
SECRETARY: Dr. Michael Gordon
Marjorie Bloom (Excused)
Cpl. James A. Spartz
Mary Baker
Kelly Hyland

ALSO PRESENT: Darcy Andrade, Director
Kellie Carroll, Administrative Assistant, DAS
Dayne Atkinson, Principal Project Manager

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Rich 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 carried 6-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting, there was a second and the motion passed, 6-0.

V. Director's Report

Darcy Andrade informed the Board that monthly vaccine clinics resumed in April and that several attendees informed DAS that it was the best clinic they have ever attended. She also thanked **Cpl. Spartz** for attending the clinic and promoting Paw Patrol, the Collier County Sheriff's Department safety program.

Ms. Andrade notified the Board that DAS is beginning to attend some events, most recently the Coffee and Cars event at Mercado.

VI. New Business

A. ASAB Meeting Time Limit

Jim Rich led a discussion on setting a time limit for ASAB Board members. **Marjorie Bloom** had expressed concern after the March meeting that she noticed several members of the public leaving the meeting before its completion. After a discussion, the Board agreed not to set a time limit on future meetings.

VII. Old Business

A. Capital Project Update

Dayne Atkinson, Principal Project Manager for Collier County provided an update on the new facility.

B. Mr. Atkinson updated the Board on progress with the X-Ray room and provided them with a handout that outlined the project scope.

C. Top Three Recommendations

Jim Rich read prepared remarks regarding the functions, powers, and duties of the Advisory Board. The Board discussed the list of top three and the status of several of the items and whether items are within the Board's purview. The items were then categorized as Vet Care, Cats, Capital, Enforcement and Outreach. **Ms. Andrade** provided input to the Board related to items on the list and offered guidance on which items require Board of County Commissioners approval.

Mr. Rich stated that many of the items need to be re-written and recommended that DAS staff re-write, prioritize and bring back in May.

D. Ordinance Update

Darcy Andrade and **Jamie French** met with the County Attorney's Office to discuss draft language. She advised that the plan is to go before the Board of County Commissioners in June and July.

VIII. Public Comments

Michele Antonia asked about changes to the ordinance and **Darcy Andrade** Provided a brief synopsis.

Maggie Kemp discussed Community Cats.

Tom Kepp was ceded time from two other registered speakers. **Mr. Kepp** provided documents to the Board members and showed a cat that he stated was returned to the field and now has an injured foot. He also showed the cover of a report on Crestview but did not provide copies to the Board or discuss the contents in detail. **Mr. Kepp** stated that everything in the report is wrong. **Mr. Kepp** stated that when the attorney who has written the laws then says that cannot be enforced, it means that something is wrong with the attorney.

Susie Mehas asked people to listen to **Tom Kepp** and stated that she disagrees with Community Cats. **Ms. Mehas** asked where donated funds go. **Darcy Andrade** gave a brief explanation of how donated funds are expended.

IX. Advisory Board Member Comments

Sarah Baeckler Davis that the six million dollars funded by the surtax is required to be spent on capital projects. **Ms. Baeckler-Davis** stated that she hears the people who discussed community cats. She said that she is just has recently been learning about returning friendly/adoptable cat to the field as part of community cats programs; she ~~advised~~ acknowledged that intuitively she understands how it might not feel ok, but she encouraged people to do their own research about this practice and stated that she trusts the DAS staff to make the best possible decisions in each case. ~~she wasn't saying that it is okay, but it might be.~~ **Ms. Baeckler-Davis** encouraged empathy and compassion for all. **Sarah** also advised that enforcement is a service/program and shouldn't be kept at arm's length.

Jim Rich said that **Ms. Hyland** had requested that Community Cats be placed on the agenda, but he pulled it so that the Board could focus on the Top Three list.

Kelly Hyland made a motion to place Community Cats on the next agenda, there was a second and the motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Hyland said that she believes it is important to hear public comments and wants to get everyone on the same page. She advised that she is going to request a meeting with **Jamie French, Commissioner Rick LoCastro**, and the County Attorney and that an effort by the whole community is needed.

Dr. Michael Gordon advised that he was glad that Community Cats will be on the next agenda.

Jim Rich stated that he appreciates everyone's commitment.

Jim Rich made a motion to adjourn, there was a second and the motion passed 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled Advisory Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the South Regional Library, Lely Cultural Parkway, Naples, Florida.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was concluded at 7:30 p.m.

COLLIER COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES

Chairman Jim Rich

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