

Gwinnett County Animal Task Force Minutes
March 20, 2012
7:00 p.m.
884 Winder Highway
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Members Present:

Kelly Alder, Vice Chair	Curtis Northrup
Elizabeth Burgner	Jon Richards
Dr. Solveig Evans	Tatiana Romeo
James Freeman	Joel Taylor, Chairman
Wanda Johnson	Dr. Wayne Wallis

Members Absent:

Donald Bush	Angie Peevy
Dr. Cathy Fish	Jane Stewart
Suzanne Pruitt	Pattie Szanti

Staff Present:

Major Dan Bruno, Gwinnett County Police Department
Theresa Cox, Law Department

I. Call to Order

Time: 7:04 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.
Motion to Approve: Jon Richards
Second: Curtis Northrup
Vote: 10-0

III. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes from 2/28/12

Motion to Approve: Curtis Northrup
Second: Wanda Johnson
Vote: 10-0

IV. Guest Speaker

Judge Carla Brown, Animal Advisory Council Member & Founder of Canine Pet Rescue

Task Force Member Wanda Johnson introduced Judge Brown. Judge Brown spoke on her experiences with Animal Advisory Council and as part of a rescue group working with the Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center. Judge Brown spoke first concerning the Animal Advisory Council and the bylaws of the Council. Judge Brown

relayed that the Animal Advisory Council worked on a bylaw rewrite for the group in 2010. She and Dr. Montgomery were the members primarily in charge of the bylaw revisions. The areas that were addressed in the bylaw rewrite were the lack of a direct line of communication between the Animal Advisory Council and the Board of Commissioners and the membership make-up of the Council with term limits placed on members. Judge Brown stated that she made a motion at the last Animal Advisory Council to disband as she believes the Council was not effective and the Council's suggestions were not being passed on to the Board.

Judge Brown also spoke about her experiences as rescue group working with Gwinnett. Judge Brown said that Gwinnett is difficult to work with and does not provide enough time or notice to rescue groups prior to the animal being euthanized. Judge Brown used DeKalb County as an example. Judge Brown noted that DeKalb notified her early in the process if a dog came in that she might be interested in and sent pictures as soon as available. Judge Brown stated that most shelters have an email program and are proactive rather than waiting for rescues to come to them. Judge Brown stated that that rescues needed to be given 3 – 4 days of notice to make arrangements for a dog.

Judge Brown stated that this is an opportunity for Gwinnett to change to be the best shelter in the State.

V. Public Hearing Planning

Public Hearing will be held at Rhodes Jordan Park on March 27, 2012 at 7 p.m.

VI. Survey – Update

Mr. Richards provided an update on the survey results and provided the Task Force Members with a copy of the final results. The survey was taken down on March 16, 2012. The final results included about 125 additional responses from the preliminary results. Mr. Richards noted that additional responses did not change the results of the survey very much. The Task Force requested that staff make the final survey results available on the Animal Task Force webpage.

VII. Subcommittees

A. Reports

i. Partnership

Mr. Northrup provided the update for the Partnership Subcommittee. Mr. Northrup stated that the Partnership Subcommittee was working on recommendations to present to the Task Force.

ii. Policy

Mr. Northrup provided the report for the Policy Subcommittee. Mr. Northrup stated that the group met last week with Charles Johnson and Major Bruno of the Animal Welfare and Enforcement Unit. The Policy

Subcommittee is working on the Subcommittee's recommendations to the whole group. The Subcommittee has a combined meeting with the Programs Subcommittee on 3/22/2012.

iii. Program

Ms. Burger provided the report for the Program Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is working on its goals one by one. With respect to feral cats, they are working on information to distribute and calls are already being directed to Planned Pethood by the Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center. On Thursday, the Subcommittee hopes to finalize its recommendations concerning the volunteer program and a full-time veterinarian for the Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center. The Subcommittee is also working on recommendations for the job description/duties of the rescue coordinator, a marketing campaign, a public education campaign, criteria/methods for euthanasia, and temperament testing. The Programs Subcommittee meets every Thursday at the Lawrenceville Police Department and will continue to meet until the end of April.

iv. Structure

Mr. Richards stated that the Structure Subcommittee did not have an update at this time.

VIII. Next ATF group meeting

Next meeting will be at Rhodes Jordan Park on March 27, 2012 at 7 p.m.

IX. Public Comment

Five members of the public spoke: Susan Ruelle, Carla Brown, Joyce Kreching, Randy DeCarlo, and Virginia Keller.

X. Adjournment

Motion: Jon Richards

Second: Curtis Northrup

Vote: 10-0

Time 8:12 p.m.