

UNOFFICIAL  
Gwinnett Animal Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
August 15, 2016  
7:00 p.m.  
Gwinnett Justice & Administration Center, Dogwood Room  
75 Langley Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

**Members Present:**

Marcia Bumbalough, Chair  
Carla Brown  
Sharon Cassidy  
Solveig Evans  
Gail LaBerge  
Zack Mills  
Curtis Northrup

**Members Absent:**

None

**Staff Present:**

Curt Harrell  
Cindy Wiemann  
Tuwanda Williams

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

- I. Introduction and welcome provided by Chair Bumbalough. Guests invited to sign up to speak during the citizens' comments portion of the meeting. Speakers limited to 3 minutes
- II. Approval of minutes
  - a. Gail LaBerge made a motion to approve the minutes, and Sharon Cassidy seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.
- III. Approval of agenda
  - a. Gail LaBerge made a motion to approve the minutes, and Carla Brown seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.
- IV. Council member comments
  - a. Marcia Bumbalough announced that the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the GAAC's recommended changes to its Code of Ethics and Bylaws, with the exception of the recommendation to eliminate the requirement that the Board approve changes to them. Any proposed changes to the Code of Ethics and Bylaws will still require Board of Commissioners approval.
- V. Shelter Update
  - a. Current staffing: 38 filled Animal Control Officers; 2 conditional ACO offers extended, and 3 ACO vacancies. Hired one Administrative Assistant, whose name is Barbara, and her duties will include managing social media for the shelter.

- b. Replaced the male inmates with female inmates as trustees at the shelter, as female inmates are more compassionate with the animals and clean better.
- c. The shelter received 8,145 calls for service from January thru June 2016.
- d. Shelter visitors have increased 37%
- e. Adoptions have increased 33%
- f. Transfers to licensed rescue groups have increased 28%
- g. Catapoloosa adoptions have continued
- h. Dog bites have increased because 20% more animals have been taken in at the shelter
- i. The Barn Cat Program is running well.
- j. Shelter staff is working with UGA veterinarian graduates to give them surgical experience
- k. Shelter has partnered with the Gwinnett Board of Education's Work-Based Learning Program in an effort to recruit student volunteers who may be interested in a career involving animals
- l. The Boy Scouts have built 15 dog houses for the shelter
- m. Staff is investigating Cobb County's TNR program and their statistics.
- n. The shelter's euthanasia rate at the end of June was 10.7% excluding wildlife, court-ordered, and veterinarian recommended euthanasias. No animals have been euthanized for space concerns.

VI. Old Business: Election of Vice Chairman

Marcia Bumbalough nominated Gail LaBerge. Carla Brown nominated Sharon Cassidy. Marcia Bumbalough moved to close the nominations, seconded by Zack Mills. Vote was 4-3 in favor of Gail LaBerge.

Animal Abandonment: Carla Brown reminded the Chair that this issue was to be carried forward to this meeting based on the minutes from the last meeting. The Chair allowed its addition.

The Shelter Manager said that he was waiting on County Commission approval of further study of this issue.

TNR update: Carla Brown brought this issue up and the Chair allowed its addition. Recommendations were given to Shelter Management. They forwarded them to Police Communications and no problems were noted. Shelter Management recommends that the Council re submit the recommendation that a trial run of the recommendations are implemented.

Carla Brown made a motion that an ad hoc committee be organized and that they would develop a specific proposal for a TNR program similar to Cobb County's. It was seconded by Zack Mills and passed unanimously.

The committee will consist of Elizabeth Burgner, Carrie Ducote, Tom Wargo and Jennifer Wagner, with Carla Brown representing the Council.

VII. New Business: Sharon Cassidy brought up the issue of holds on animals that could be adopted by the public. The Chair allowed it to be added. Ms Cassidy would like the public to have the first option on adoptable animals. Shelter Management recommends a 48 hour

period for public adoption before Rescue Organizations can place a hold on animals. Policy does not currently have any time limits.

VIII. Citizen Comments:

Gabrielle Morris stated that she was a new volunteer and felt that the conditions at the shelter were not the best for the animals. She would like to see more hours and advertising.

Mona Stephens stated that orange carding seems to be used too often. More needs to be done to evaluate animal temperament before issuing an orange card. She also wanted to know if animals in bite quarantine are on the web site or made available for owners wanting to reclaim them.

Linda Suddath wanted to know where she could find the Shelter statistics. She also wanted to know if cat scratches are treated in the same manner as dog bites.

Angelina Powdall told the story of Gracie, for whom she had found a home in Canada only to find out that the dog had been put down.

Jan Grissom presented the Council with a list of items she felt should be addressed by the shelter. (see attached).

Becky Philips told the Council about an issue in her neighborhood regarding a person who is feeding cats. She would like a way to deal with the person who created the problem and has gotten conflicting advise.

Kate Huser would like to see more hours at the shelter, better training of officers, a full time trainer for dogs and adoption counselors as well as a full time veterinarian on staff. She also wondered why an adoption event was cancelled in July and what steps are being taken to be more "rescue friendly."

Jen Wagner was disappointed that there was a charge for FOIA information. In this case, the charge was waived, but would not be in the future.

Lila Hunter would like to see rescues reclassified as a "pull" and not an "adoption." She also stated that employees that get bitten often are in need of more training.

Debra Thomas wondered if it was possible for rescues to help teach.

Lisa Musser told the story of a yellow lab that was euthanized because of a yellow card.

Adrienne Dooms would like to see a law enacted that would hold people who create a problem by feeding many cats in her neighborhood accountable for the damage they cause.

Nahum Nicholas inquired about whether emails were going out from the Rescue Coordinator, the status of the Animal Issues Task Force recommendations and how often the Council was required to meet.

Elizabeth Burgner would like to see a full time veterinarian on staff. She would also like to see the County Commission stop "passing the buck" to the Council. She also wondered if the

only option available when the shelter is full is the barn cat program. She also stated that the volunteers should not be handling animals on their first or second day.

- IX. Next meeting will be Monday, November 21, 2016 at 7:00 PM in conference room C.
- X. Carla Brown made the motion to adjourn, Sharon Cassidy seconded and it was approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 PM.