

Unofficial Minutes
Gwinnett Animal Advisory Council
75 Langley Dr.
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Members present:

Marcia Bumbalough Chair
Gail LaBerge
Carla Brown
Curtis Northrup

Members absent:

None

Staff present:

Curt Harrell
Cindy Wiemann
Tuwanda Williams

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM.

- I. Introduction and welcome invitation for audience guests to sign up to speak during Citizen Comment portion of agenda**
- II. Acceptance of minutes:** The motion to accept was made by Gail LaBerge and seconded by Marcia Bumbalough. It passed unanimously.
- III. Approval of agenda:** The motion to accept was made by Curtis Northrup and seconded by Gail LaBerge. It passed unanimously.
- IV. Council member comments:** Chairman Bumbalough stated that the County Commissioners had 3 vacancies to fill on the council.
- V. Update by Director of shelter:** Curt Harrell presented a slide show that outlined the mission statement of the GCAWE. He stated that animal control had 43 authorized positions, of which, 38 were filled; there were 3 outstanding job offers, 2 vacancies and 1 new part time. He also reviewed the organizational chart. In 2016 there were 5452 animals taken in to the shelter, 375 were returned in the field, 514 were euthanized (8.81%), of which only 2 were for space reasons. There were 24,839 shelter visits by citizens, 2106 adoptions and 1976 rescues. There were 630 animal bite cases, which was an increase over last year. He stated that staff was working to understand and address the reason for the increase. He showed pictures of

the new vans the shelter was getting. He also reviewed last year's initiatives to increase adoptions. Music was added to the shelter area and the purchase of sound baffles to help with noise had been approved.

- VI. Old Business :** No action was taken. An update on TNR efforts by Elizabeth Burgner stated that using information forms at intake allowed a couple of dozen cats to be spayed and kept out of the shelter.
- VII. New Business:**
a)Set GAAC tentative meeting schedule:
b)Election of GAAC officers: A motion was made to table these items and set a called meeting to consider them in February by Gail LaBerge and seconded by Curtis Northrup. It passed unanimously.
- VIII. Next GAAC Meeting:** The next meeting was scheduled for February 16 at 7:00 PM
- IX. Citizen comments:**
Sheri Mansky asked that we increase the time for citizen comments to 5 minutes. She would also like the members to introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting. She would like to see the shelter become a "no kill" shelter. Also, she had heard stories of volunteers being "run off." She wanted to know what the criteria was for euthanizing animals and if the shelter put down healthy animals.
Caroline Gatto stated that the Cobb County web site let you enter info and see every animal in the shelter and their status. She had been denied permission to video tape an animal even with an officer in the room with her. A lot of strides had been made with respect to ferals. She was not able to see an animal and said that there seemed to be some misinformation among staff.
Nahum Nicholas would like to see the budget and also a full time vet on staff. Gail LaBerge recommended calling her County Commissioner.
Elizabeth Burgner asked if there were any discretionary funds in the budget.
John Coady wanted to know how cats were euthanized. He stated that he was injured while volunteering and was not allowed to fill out an accident report. He was also told his services were no longer needed. He is waiting for a letter from Curt Harrell.
Lee Ann Webb stated that euthanasia numbers were looking better. She was concerned about animals that were labeled as aggressive. Officers need to be able to tell the difference between scared or stressed animals and aggressive ones.
- X. Adjournment:** Gail LaBerge made a motion to adjourn with Carla Brown seconding. It passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.