

Unofficial Minutes  
GWINNETT COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
January 29, 2018  
GWINNETT JUSTICE AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
CONFERENCE ROOM C, 7:00 PM

- I. **Introduction, Welcome to Guest and Meeting Called to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.  
Members Present: Jim Poe, Marcia Bumbalough, Gail LaBerge, Carla Brown (7:10) and Curtis Northrup. Absent: Brittany Carter.  
Staff Present: Cindy Wiemann, Tina Fleming (Director of Gwinnett Department of Community Services), and Blake Hawkins (Deputy Director of Gwinnett Department of Community Services).
- II. **Approval of agenda:** Motion to accept Agenda by Marcia Bumbalough, second by Gail LaBerge. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of minutes from November 13, 2017 meeting:** Motion to approve by Marcia Bumbalough, second by Curtis Northrup. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Shelter Update by Blake Hawkins:** See Attachment I.  
Elizabeth Burgner, who will manage medical services under the contract with Planned Pethood, gave an update on several changes to be implemented. She stated that after an animal is off of the hold time it would be vetted immediately. Animals with illnesses will be offered to specialized rescues instead of being euthanized. She stated the goal is to treat what is wrong, to notice what is wrong with an animal and to check every animal each day. All notes on animals will be released to rescue. They are in the process of hiring and going through the protocols. The new medical services will began on February 20. While they anticipate some “bumps in the road”, they hope to overcome those quickly. Marcia Bumbalough asked whether staff would be the same or whether it would rotate. The answer was that staff would be the same.  
Gail LaBerge commented on how pleased she was to see medical services being developed and implemented at the Shelter.  
  
Search for New Director is moving forward. See attachment report.
- V. **Old Business:**  
Amended Bylaws: Motion to table until April 2018, made by Carla Brown, second by Curtis Northrup. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **New Business:**  
Election of Officers:  
Chair: Curtis Northrup nominated by Gail LaBerge. Vote to elect Curtis Northrup: 4 in favor, with one abstain. Curtis Northrup elected.  
Vice Chair: Marcia Bumbalough nominated by Gail LaBerge. Vote to elect Marcia Bumbalough: 5 in favor. Marcia Bumbalough elected.  
Secretary: Motion to table until Brittany Carter is at the next meeting by Carla Brown, second by Curtis Northrup. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting dates for 2018: April 16, July 23, and October 22.

Court Case Boarding fees:

Discussion on the expense and how long dogs are being held due to being declared vicious or dangerous or under rabies quarantine.

Mandated Microchipping for reclaimed Cats and Dogs:

The Shelter is doing 90% of the animals and a follow up needs to be done on the other 10%, who are to be done by a private veterinarian, in order to acquire the documentation showing the chipping has been done.

Rescue Hold:

Discussion on the time of hold related to a rescue. Information provided by Blake Hawkins who will do some research and notify the Council of any questions that might arise. He will notify the Council when a decision has been reached concerning the extra two days for rescue hold.

**VII. Citizens Comments:**

Stephanie Swann: Shelter volunteer. Has concerns in the way the dogs brought into the Shelter are labeled as to the type of breed or breed mix.

Caroline Gatto: Commented on Feral Cat training, feels volunteers need more instruction. She commented on hold time for rescue groups

John Coady: Comment on hold time for rescue groups, comment on training for handling cats. Felt it was good that the new medical services were being implemented.

VIII. Council Comments: Carla Brown commented on the new medical services at the Shelter and other improvements. Marcia Bumbalough commented concerning how dogs are listed concerning breed or mix.

IX. Next GAAC meeting: April 16, 2018, 7:00 PM, GJAC Building. Blake Hawkins volunteered to secure the meeting room at GJAC.

X. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Marcia Bumbalough, second by Curtis Northrup. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Gail LaBerge  
GAAC Secretary

## Attachment I

### Gwinnett Animal Welfare & Enforcement Division Animal Advisory Committee Meeting January 29, 2018

1. **Marketing:** In recognition of Gwinnett County's Bicentennial year-long celebration, we are offering all canine and feline adoptions for \$18.18, a Paw'ticipate flyers has been included in your packets.
2. **AWE Manager Position:** Initial interviews are underway, and a new Division Director/Manager will be selected in early February. We look forward to introductions and will hold several events to introduce her/him to the public.
3. **Road Way/Entrance Signage:** Support Services is in the process of finalizing the design presented previously for a brick and mortar sign to compliment the building. We look for a construction date in early 2018 for completion to follow.
4. **New Updated Content on Website:** Check out the [gwinnettanimalwelfare.com](http://gwinnettanimalwelfare.com) to see new pages and updated content – new February web banners are running. The daily reports are posting for all days, and appear to be very helpful to groups and citizens who wish to know this information.
5. **Volunteer Program Orientation:** Recently held an Orientation on Saturday, January and added 4 new volunteers. Great folks coming to help, Kitty City, etc. Look forward to holding an orientation every two months moving forward or as needed.
6. **Shelter News:** Currently our inventory is low. We are gearing up for the busy spring and summer. Baffles, to help with the loud kennels are being installed in all canine holding pods and rooms in February. This will greatly aid our staff with reduced decibel levels.
7. **Outreach:** We are filling our calendar with spring events, and we have signed on with the Atlanta Pet Expo (March 24-25) as the Vaccination Sponsor. We will provide 200 low cost vaccinations for the attendees as needed, and will continue quarterly in conjunction with the bicentennial. We will continue to provide 200 for the remaining 3 quarters in various County communities, for a total of 800 for the year. Additionally, we are planning monthly 'Yappy Hour' Events to be held in partnership with Parks & Recreation and Live Healthy Gwinnett to offer educational resources, trainings, and snacks for humans and canines. The events will be held at different dog parks across the County to attract as many citizens as possible.
8. **Medical Services RFP:** The Commissioners voted and approved the selection of Planned Pet Hood, Duluth for the Comprehensive Medical Services Director for the

Shelter. The contract will provide a full time certified Veterinarian, Vet Techs and Assistants 6 days a week, and on call as needed. The Medical Team will continue to perform sterilization surgeries, minor surgeries, assessment and wellness care for all animals daily. This includes testing and treatment for illnesses and diseases such as Heartworm and Feline HIV. The Medical Director/DVM will provide policies and procedures for the intake and care of all animals in our care.

9. **Community Road & Investigative Services:** We recently have been involved with the closing of the Yellow River Game Ranch and with Pet Land, Mall of Ga, in communication with the State Department of Agriculture.
10. **Training:** We are planning to ask in a Feline and Canine resources to work and instruct our Kennel and Road staff for advanced animal behavior understanding and care.