



Gwinnett Animal Advisory Committee Meeting  
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES  
Monday, March 8, 2021 via WebEx

**Attendees:** Alan Davis                      Erin Martin                      Nahum Nicholas                      Temika Wilkes  
Yvonne Latorre                      Gail LaBerge                      Lila Hunter                      Vernon Sawyer  
Gail Lane                      Jeanne Aulbach (6:15 pm)

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Introduction of Animal Advisory Committee members in attendance:

- Gail LaBerge representing District 4, appointed by Commissioner Marlene Fosque
- Erin Martin representing Gwinnett Board of Health
- Nahum Nicholas representing District 2, appointed by Commissioner Ben Ku
- Lila Hunter representing District 1, appointed by Commissioner Kirkland Carden

Welcome to visitor Katie Corbett

Gail LaBerge asked for updated contact information for all members

Gail LaBerge asked for approval of agenda or any changes. No changes requested

Gail LaBerge asked for approval of minutes; no changes requested; approved as published

### New Business

Gail LaBerge asked for nominations for officers to serve on the committee for 2021.

- Chairman – Nahum Nicholas nominated Gail LaBerge. No other nominations. (Gail LaBerge)
- Vice Chairman – Gail LaBerge nominated Nahum. No other nominations. (Nahum Nicholas)
- Secretary – Gail LaBerge explained that this officer would work with Gail Lane at Gwinnett Animal Welfare to maintain minutes and meetings. Lila Hunger volunteered to serve as Secretary; no objections (Lila Hunter)
  - Gail Lane will send unofficial/unapproved minutes to Lila to be published on the website within 2 days.

### Old Business

- Yvonne Latorre provided copies of the newly adopted ordinances and by laws to the members via e-mail earlier on Monday. Updated bylaws reflect that there is a need to be

on the committee for a year and attend 70% of meetings to run for office. New bylaws reflect that other considerations may be made to fulfill the positions. These considerations were approved by commissioners in the updated bylaws.

- Alan Davis introduced Temika Wilkes and Vernon Sawyer for updates at Gwinnett Animal Welfare & Enforcement.
- Initial update on the Return to Community Cat Program is that the program is working very well.
- Nahum Nicholas asked for contact for Barn Cat Program.
  - Alan Davis directed her to Garrett Williams, as Rescue Specialist or Angela Hutchins who assists. He explained that we work with Jeanie from Planned Pethood of Georgia.
  
- 6:15pm – Jeanne Aulbach, representative for the Gwinnett Municipal Association, joined the meeting and was updated on the election of officers.
  
- Alan Davis gave updates through a PowerPoint presentation for shelter stats including the Pets For Life vaccination clinic statistics.
  
- Gail LaBerge and Nahum Nicholas stated they were glad for the number of pets who were microchipped and noted that it can help save animals.
  
- Jeanne Aulbach asked if shelter staff could alert the committee in advance of educational campaigns scheduled for social media so the members could contribute to networking and help get the messaging out.
  - Alan Davis said we would let them know of those that we have advanced knowledge of.
  
- Temika Wilkes gave updates with the presentation for 2020 kennel and adoption statistics.
  
- Vernon Sawyer provided updates with the presentation for 2020 enforcement and road officer statistics.
  
- Nahum Nicholas asked about other training for staff was being provided
  - Alan Davis explained that most in-person training has been cancelled but shelter staff is working on online training to see how we can incorporate that into our need. Additionally, the new Animal Behaviorist has identified cat training courses to take when they are available.
  
- Nahum Nicholas asked if there was monthly staff training.

- Alan Davis responded that our staff is doing ongoing training with the behaviorist who is a certified dog behaviorist with 6 years of dog training. She is now training with cats through programs with HSUS, Maddie's Fund, etc.
- Nahum Nicholas asked about shelter-wide staff training for ordinances and shelter policies?
  - Temika is working with staff on updating SOP's that includes training.
- How often does staff meet for training?
  - Temika Wilkes explained that staff meets each Monday and is working towards completion of Standard Operating Procedures, including training, within 6 weeks. We have first and 2<sup>nd</sup> week of training resolved with additional weeks to set SOP for other information. Attendees to this meeting are Gail Lane, Angie Hutchins, Erica Calloway, Deb Kovak, and Dr. Odum.
  - Training for kennel staff was recently conducted on chemical capture by Night Supervisor Thomas Stephens. Vernon Sawyer explained that chemical capture utilizes a dart gun to knock the dog out enough for a capture that is safe for our officers and the dog.
- Jeanne Aulbach asked if we were testing cats for FELV
  - Alan Davis explained that we never stopped testing, but it is pulled at the recommendation of the veterinarian or upon request from rescues. Jeanne Aulbach is concerned that we are adopting cats without testing.
  - Discussion ensued about the new data from the veterinary sources concerning false positives. AVMA and American Cat Society says that the FELV testing is no longer recommended.
  - Alan asked if he could supply reports to substantiate our practices. Gail LaBerge said yes.
- Gail LaBerge asked if we could put information about Responsible Pet Ownership in InGwinnett. Nahum Nicholas asked if we could also include RTCCP information and article or other information which might provide useful information about leash laws, cleaning up after pets, tethering or any other articles that would be helpful with this reach.
  - Alan Davis will send information concerning deadlines and make a request to CEC.
  - It was suggested that it might also be helpful to have articles in other languages.
- Request from Gail LaBerge to determine the best time and day for quarterly meetings. After discussion it was determined that the committee will conduct the next meeting at the same time and will revisit this day and time in that meeting.
  - Erin Martin suggested a Survey Monkey/Poll that we can send out to members.
  - After discussion it was determined that the next quarterly meeting will be on Monday, June 21 at 6:00pm

- Nahum Nicholas asked about the new shelter and noted she had spoken with Ben Ku who suggested Alan Davis address the SPLOST Committee. Gail LaBerge offered her assistance if needed.
- Nahum Nicholas asked about Shelter Buddy/new shelter management system; it is still being resolved
- Gail LaBerge thanked everyone who attended tonight's meeting and will reach out to new members for updated e-mail addresses and contact information. She asked for comments from the public.
  - No Comments.
- Hearing no comments Gail LaBerge adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm