

Minutes of the Oconee Co. Animal Control Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

7:00 pm – Oconee Veterans Park

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair, Marie Williams, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Chair, Debbie Caffery was unable to attend; Mark Dawson, member, was unable to attend. Members present were Vice Chair, Marie Williams, Secretary, Audrey Haynes, member, Angie Eades. Also present: Crystal Berisko, Animal Services Manager, and County EMA Director, C.J. Worden. A quorum (3 of 5) was present for the meeting.

Additional attendees at the meeting included members of Friends of Oconee County Animal Services and volunteers.

2. Approval of Minutes (October 24, 2018)

Vice Chair Williams called for the approval of the minutes from the October 24th called meeting. Eades moved to approve the motion. Haynes seconded the motion. All voting members voted to approve. Motion was approved.

3. Public Comments

Vice Chair Williams called for public comments. No public comments given.

4. Manager of Animal Services Updates – Crystal Berisko

Manager Berisko provided an update on the following:

a. Upcoming Events

- Discussion and presentation of dates for upcoming continued adoption events with PetSmart, including the PetSmart three day national event, of which OCAS and FOCAS are the coordinators, organizing for the event that include many of the surrounding animal service organizations in the area. Discussion of allocation of staff to coordinate participation in those events on a regular basis and use of software to help organize and coordinate volunteers for these and other events and projects. Discussion of annual open house, likely spring or summer. Discussion of current partners and their contribution to strong adoption numbers including suggestions for ways to say thank you for their partnership and support.

b. Ordinance-Draft to Present form

- Berisko reviewed the revision of the county ordinance that has been underway and will be presented to the county. Input from the Board was provided. The revision brings the Ordinance into more consistency with the state regulations, provides greater clarity and direction in a number of areas.
- Discussion of tethering elements of ordinance; efforts to educate public.

- Discussion of sheltering section.
- The revision now incorporates all the current statutes within the ordinance in one place so officers and community members have fuller information of all codes (state and local) that may be relevant.
- Discussion of the public threat classification and the duties of the Board. New language added to ordinance: Board will hear appeals to the Public Threat classification, however, a meeting can be **called** so that the appeal can be heard in a more timely manner, given the Board meets only four times a year.
- Discussion of feral cats and county policy in relation to trap, neuter and release programs. Berisko took this time to explain in depth about feral cat programs in general and answered the Board's question.
- The Board discussed the value of the Ordinance revision and Berisko discussed the process that would comprise the next steps for approval of the revisions.

c. Medical Policy-Draft to Present form

- Berisko reviewed the new medical policy and input from the Board was provided. The medical policy revision provides more direction, accountability, and transparency and was discussed as much needed and significantly improved. The policy provides protocols for the following categories: healthy and potentially adoptable dogs, healthy and potentially adoptable cats, factious animals as well as a vaccination timeline (including pregnant or nursing dogs and cats).
- She also explained the process by which this policy will go through an approval policy as well.

d. FY 2020 Budget

- Berisko reviewed the budget, discussing the current and expected needs of Animal Services, including professional development and vaccinating staff for rabies.

e. Grant Award - written by Trina Rhyne - "Dogs Love Waggin' Tails" grant received \$3,600

- Will be used to socialize and train dogs through the Waggin' Tails Program. The Board recognized the grant work of Rhine and the continued and significant efforts of the FOCAS on behalf of the shelter.

5. Manager of Animal Services, Items for review- Crystal Berisko

- Vicious Dog Classification

6. Progress of the Animal Shelter renovation – Crystal Berisko

- Berisko and Worden have met with architectural firm about the renovation. Reported that things were moving forward.

7. Meeting dates for 2019: April 10, 2019, July 10, 2019, and October 9, 2019

- Dates were confirmed as proposed.

7. New Business

- a. Pet Supplies Plus - continued strong relationship with adoption events and more
- b. Kohl's Volunteer Program - new partnership
- c. UGA Paws and Dawgs - new event participation
- d. HOA- Board Meeting Oldfield Subdivision - Berisko will answer questions for the community
- e. Grants in Progress - Feral Cat Program
- f. Friends of OCAS and OCAS collaboration: Community Outreach Pilot Program - innovative program to identify community areas that may benefit from educational services and well as intervention for vulnerable animal communities and support for struggling care givers.

8. Closing Comments Next meeting: April 10, 2019

Vice Chair Williams motioned to adjourn. Secretary Haynes seconded. Meeting was adjourned.