

Minutes of the Oconee Co. Animal Control Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 10, 2019
7:00 pm – Oconee Veterans Park

Call to Order

Chairperson, Debbie Caffery, called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. In attendance in addition to Caffery: Vice Chair, Marie Williams, Secretary, Audrey Haynes, New Member, Marsha Mitchell, as well as Oconee Animal Services Manager, Crystal Berisko; as well as three members of the Friends of Oconee County Animal Services volunteer organization. Absent: Angie Eades, due to a prior commitment. A quorum was present and noted.

Approval of Minutes (April 10, 2019)

Chairperson Debbie Caffery raised the review and approval of the minutes from the April 10th meeting after confirming that everyone had reviewed the minutes sent by Secretary Audrey Haynes. Williams made the motion to approve and Haynes seconded. All members affirmed. The motion was passed, and the minutes were approved.

Public Comments (limited to 5 minutes) each

Kim Keegan – excited about the new year to come and all the work that is being done.
Trina Rhyne recognized for all her efforts, and while she has moved to another state she is still staying involved with FOCAS.

Introduction of New Members – Crystal Berisko

Marsha Mitchell has joined the Oconee County Animal Services Board for a two year term beginning July 2019. She was welcomed to the board by the members and the Manager and thanked for her willingness to serve.

Manager of Animal Services Updates – Crystal Berisko

- Manager Berisko gave a shout out to Dr. Bob Brewster with thanks for working with OCAS.

- **Projects**

Clean up and Reorganization: Continued clean up and reorganization of current structures at the OCAS location. The big trailer is gone; cedar barn still there and reorganized; blankets and towels donated if could not be kept. Work in preparation

Data Gathering: Manager Berisko and her staff have been collecting data since 2017 on their work activity. Over the last two years cases have increased, and intakes have almost doubled. There has continued to be increased activity. The end goal is to make sure that data is accurately collected in capturing the amount of activity that officers and staff are engaged in.

- **Upcoming Events**

- Pub on Main Adoption Event coming up.
- PetSmart and Mary's Tack and Feed continued adoption events.

- JULY 31 at Oconee Civic Center 6 to 8:30 Volunteer Appreciation and Recruitment Event
 - Theme: You are an essential piece of the puzzle
 - 8 different themed tables for guests; information tables for recruitment
 - Catered
 - Core Volunteers will be recognized
- **Approved Budget**
 - Manager Berisko discussed the approved budget for this fiscal year. Included will be more resources for medical expenses for animal needs. In addition, staff will be able to receive the pre-rabies exposure vaccinations.
 - There are also indications that the incinerator may be able to be replaced in the future given the age of the current one.
 - She also reported that two new fleet vehicles have been added as resources; Ford transit van and a new bay trucks; one pickup truck will be gone due to mileage.

Progress of Animal Shelter Renovation

Manager Berisko took the Advisory Board through the proposed changes to the current structure and explained the additions and restructuring of the interior. She conveyed that her number one concern was the safety and comfort of the animals. She also shared that she and the staff were quite happy with the projected changes and improvements and work may begin as early as next year.

Confirm Upcoming Quarterly Meeting Dates

After brief discussion among the members and Manager Berisko, the following dates were agreed upon for this term's meeting times.

- Oct 9, 2019
- January 8, 2019
- April 15, 2019

New Business

- Manager Berisko and the Advisory Board conveyed congratulations to Friends of Oconee County Animal Services for excellent work on their June fundraiser: Dine to be Kind. It was

very successful with strong participation. Many of the participants have already sent in their percentage based donations; a few others have not, but will be contacted.

- Manager Berisko also highlighted the new Animal Advocate Program. This new program encourages members of the community to take on the commitment of working with a shelter dog or cat weekly while they are at the shelter. Those who are interested may find more information on the Friends of Oconee County Animal Services
- Vice Chair Marie Williams asked for an update on the ordinance changes. Manager Berisko explained that the ordinance changes are still in the process of being reviewed by the county attorney to make sure they are in the correct form for final review.

Closing comments

- Thanks given to all who attended.
- Vice Chair Marie Williams motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Marsha Mitchell.