



Forsyth County
Animal Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2006

Jack Sprinkle
Mitch Cromer
Dr. Tim Strickland
Whitney Lamb
Jennifer Tierney
Thurman Dillon
Julie Magness
Jerry Canady
Sandy Mayberry
Larry Bunn
D. Ritchie Brooks

Members Present:

Jack Sprinkle
Mitch Cromer
Dr. Tim Strickland
Whitney Lamb
Jennifer Tierney
Thurman Dillon
Julie Magness
Sandy Mayberry
Larry Bunn
D. Ritchie Brooks
Jerry Canady

Staff Present:

Tim Jennings
Matt Smith
Judy Blevins
Kelly Nash

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Sandy Mayberry, Chairperson at 6:00 P.M.

Thurman Dillon made a motion to accept the minutes of July 20, 2006 as written and second by Jennifer Tierney and approved by members present.

Old Business

Members were provided copies of the 2003 HSUS Animal Services Consultation Report and an invitation to the New Shelter Opening Ceremony August 31, 2006.

Tim Jennings went over the background of the County requesting the HSUS report and the task force appointed to oversee implementation of its recommendations. Many of the items have been addressed with the erection of new shelter. The current focus is on outreach opportunities and proactive measures for enforcing codes. He advised members that the recommendation of the final task force meeting in November 2004 was a new board to address issues of community outreach and interaction with the department and long range planning. That recommendation leads to the creation of this advisory board.

By Laws

The existing by-laws were discussed. Tim Jennings advised the board of the background discussions with the BOCC and stakeholder groups were utilized in developing the initial by-laws. The County's intent was to provide the new board with minimum guidance on how it can assist the department and commissioners make determinations. The advisory board has the ability to recommend, and vote, on changes to the by-laws. The County Manager has final approval.

Sub Committees

There was general discussion regarding the three proposed sub committees for appeals, code review and program development.

Appeals: The process for an appeal of a civil citation was discussed. The public is to provide a written appeal for citation violations. A hearing is then scheduled for the appeal to be heard. Sandy Mayberry asked if public was not satisfied with results what would happen. Tim Jennings stated that they would then have to file an action in Superior Court. Ritchie Brooks asked whether the appeal should be written or face to face. Jennifer Tierney commented that committee would be bogged down if it was face to face. Sandy Mayberry stated as a board as a whole should decide how it is to be handled. Ritchie Brooks stated that it should be handled both ways. Sandy wanted to know how many per week and Tim

Jennings stated number is surprisingly low because appeal process is not clear. Tim stated while the code references a hearing, the advisory board develops the procedure through it's by-laws. A recommendation was made that the advisory board committee could review written submissions from the appellate, and animal control officers and make a recommendation. If the appellant still wanted a hearing, the Director could meet with them before issuing a final determination.

Appeal Sub Committee members are Ritchie Brooks, Jerry Canady, Jack Sprinkle, Jennifer Tierney, Frank Cromer and Larry Bunn. Board will then make a recommendations to the department Director who will provide the appellate with a written determination.

Tim Jennings was asked to provide a list of community concerns and code issues, specifically to help the board with setting up sub committees research needed in problem areas. Committee members are also to bring back a list of concerns and issues.

Examples of possible code changes the department would like reviewed involve the number of hours of stray holding, increased incentives differential licensing incentives and public access to licensing. Larry Bunn brought up concern about public comment and possible need to hold public meetings regarding code discussions. Mitch Cromer said he thought the board members represented the community Sandy Mayberry stated that the board is here to help Animal Control function smoothly.

Public Comment

Wynoka and Donnie Hicks spoke to committee concerning an animal being left in a car while owner is in restaurant. They also stated that they were not able to get through to live person via phone. Sandy Mayberry stated that board can assist with threat related calls through recommendations for more support.

New Business

Jack Sprinkle asked about Parvo and the letter submitted last meeting regarding a dog that had died. Tim Strickland, DVM advised the signs and symptoms and said he felt the shelter was doing all that was possible to prevent disease. Shelter Manager Matt Smith provided background information on this particular letter and disease prevention procedure in general. A recommendation was made to move public comment to the head of the agenda and limit public comment to 3 minute periods as does the BOCC.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Jack Sprinkle to adjourn and second by Jerry Canady. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM with the next meeting will be held on September 21, 2006.