



Forsyth County
Animal Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
September 21, 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
Larry Bunn
Jerry Canady

Staff Present:

Tim Jennings
Kelly Nash

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Larry Bunn at 6:00 P.M.

Tim Jennings advised the board members Sandy Mayberry and Ritchie Brooks had notified the department of conflicts and that they would not be in able to attend this meeting.

Larry Bunn made a motion to accept the minutes of August 17, 2006 as written and second by Julie Magness and approved by members present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Old Business

There was general discussion of the 2003 HSUS consultation report. Jack Sprinkle recommended utilizing the report as a road map for the board as it conducts its business. Jennifer Tierney did not want the advisory board to repeat work already conducted by a special task force. Jennifer also recommended setting aside time outside of the advisory board meeting to discuss concerns. Tim Jennings has talked with Jack Sprinkle and Mitch Cromer about setting aside time to meet. Tim also stated he could see how the report may function as an outline for the strategic planning report called for in the advisory board duties.

Board members were provided a copy of the department's service response policy with the time of response goals. Questions regarding response times had been brought up at the August meeting. Staff requested members to review and contact them with any questions.

The August 31st official opening ceremony for the new shelter was discussed. Tim thanked board members Sandy Mayberry, who provided the official welcome and Jerry Canady who provided a presentation on the history of animal control in the county. The staff also thanked the organizations Friends of the Shelter and Fur Ever Friends who arranged the reception for the Board of County Commissioners and guests and volunteer hosts Jennifer Tierney, Keith Murphy and Melody Hawkins of Fur Ever Friends.

Sub Committees

There was general discussion regarding the use of sub committees. The county code established an advisory board sub committee of a minimum 3 members that may act as an appeal tribunal. Staff provided a draft policy containing two options for the appeal subcommittee. One option was for the conduct of a standard appeal before the members with testimony by appellants and staff. The advisory board would hear the appeal and make a recommendation to the department director who makes a final determination in writing. The second option provides for written submissions to be provided by appellants outlining the grounds for their appeal, a staff report submitted by the department outlining the background of the complaint, evidence and recommendation. The advisory board committee would review the written submissions, make a written recommendation to the Director, if then requested by the appellant, the department Director would conduct an in person meeting before making a final determination. Tim Jennings said if the advisory board provides a formal recommendation for the second written appeal option it will be submitted to the County Attorney and County Manager as a proposed amendment to the by laws for their review. Jerry Canady asked if the board's delaying of initiating the sub committee was causing the department any problems. Tim Jennings said he has been handling appeals pending the creation of the advisory board and can continue to do so pending the outcome of this recommendation. Jennifer Tierney made a motion to adopt option two, written appeals. Jack Sprinkle opposed holding a vote at this time as the two members who are absent should have an opportunity to vote. The motion was seconded by Julie Magness and approved by board vote.

There was general discussion of the process for bringing proposed new ordinances and/or programs to the board for consideration. It was determined a specific sub committee for code issues was not needed. A board member, organization, or person who wishes a proposal to be considered need only contact the advisory board chair, or department staff, regarding having their proposal scheduled as an agenda item for consideration. Jennifer Tierney identified some proposed ordinances that are under review around the state and nation, such as anti-chain laws. Staff provided a handout of county code sections the department feels would clarify and expedite some regulatory actions. Mitch Cromer stated he objects to having to license animals, stating he feels it is double taxation and the required information is an invasion of privacy. There was general discussion of local licensing requirements and state statute requiring rabies vaccination, and requiring reporting of vaccinated animals to local health, or animal control, departments by veterinarians. Larry Bunn and Tim Jennings discussed how the required information describing the animal was necessary for protection of the public health in rabies exposure/bite situations.

New Business

There was general discussion regarding the establishment of regular meeting dates. The by-laws establish a minimum six meetings, open to the public, will be held each year. Julie Magness and Jennifer Tierney suggested moving to a schedule of meetings every two months. Jerry Canady suggested continuing monthly meetings until key issues are resolved. Julie Magness expressed concern regarding the coming holidays conflicting with meetings. Jennifer Tierney proposed a motion to hold meetings October 19th and November 16th and no meeting be held in December 2006. Mitch Cromer seconded. The motion was approved.

Julie Magness proposed a motion that local organizations be invited to make presentations to the advisory board. This would provide members with on-going information on resources in the community for animal concerns. After general discussion it was recommended presentations should be limited to 15 minutes and held at the start of the agenda. Jennifer Tierney seconded the motion and it was approved.

Staff advised the board radio station WSJS would be conducting a 2 hour radio show from the shelter Friday September 22, 2006. The program will focus upon the new shelter, FCAC programs and local animal rescue groups. September 29, 2006 the department is hosting a meeting of the NC Task Force to Abolish Animal Fighting, with a second meeting of the local law enforcement agencies regarding Forsyth County animal fighting. Information was provided to the board of the September 30th free seminar regarding the links between animal abuse and violence and crime.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM. The next meeting will be held October 19, 2006.