



Forsyth County
Animal Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
November 16, 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
Jennifer Tierney
Thurman Dillon
Julie Magness
D. Ritchie Brooks

Staff Present:

Tim Jennings
Judy Blevins
Kelly Nash
Matt Smith
Crystal Tilley

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sandy Mayberry at 6:08 P.M.

Tim Jennings advised the board members Dr. Tim Strickland, Whitney Lamb and Jerry Canady had notified the department of conflicts and that they would not be in able to attend this meeting.

Minutes

A Motion was made by Ritchie Brooks, second by Julie Magness to accept minutes of October 19, 2006. Approved as written.

Public Comment

Keith Murphy spoke to the committee about the Humane Society spay/neuter funding and that it needs to reach the community. Keith also advised that stray animals are dropped outside the Humane Society and staff from the Humane Society brings the animal to the shelter to help out. Keith advised that he had concerns about the way Lori's presentation went last month and it seemed at times that she was being interrogated. Keith quoted that the work of this Advisory Board is extremely important to the county and much trust has been placed in the members to execute their duties in a fair and informed manner. He feels that presenters need to feel comfortable and respected. Mitch Cromer requested a copy of Keith Murphy's public comments from last months meeting.

Guest Presentation

Matt Smith, FCAC Shelter Manager spoke to the committee about Community Care Program (CCP) and what it requires to participate with the shelter to transfer animals. Rescue groups need to have a 501©3 status. At this time there are 33 groups that participate in CCP. Animal Control perceives their assistance as a tremendous help and not competition. Jennifer Tierney stated that FCAC is the envy of other counties. The partnerships we have with these groups are very positive and other counties would like to model their programs after FCAC.

Old Business

Appeal Hearings – Lori Sykes, Assistant Forsyth County Attorney, spoke to Board members regarding the appeal procedures and answered questions. Board fees and animal license will not be covered for appeal. Tim will send final letter of determination with dollar figure. If a person appeals the Board recommendation/Director decision it will go to small claims court or another court depending upon the amount of penalty considered. Lori discussed the hearing procedures and a question was asked if each person has to be sworn in and she advised that swearing in will be at one time. Board can limit time and accept all testimony. Lori will be at the appeal hearings for advice. Appeal hearing can be stopped if

person is rude and insulting. Much of the discussion centered upon the open meeting laws and how the determinations may be reached.

Hearing determination and recommendations forms were reviewed that will suffice for the written recommendation requirement to the department. The Director will then notify the appellant. Julie Magness made a motion to accept, second by Jennifer Tierney, abstained by Thurman Dillon and approved by members present.

Jennifer Tierney made a motion to disband Code Committee, second by Mitch Cromer, approved by members present. Work may progress easier if members can research and discuss before presentation to the Board without being subject to the open meetings law. Jennifer presented an outline of code issues she is researching and would like to see discussed.

Tim presented the work plan that had been requested and a copy of the telephone survey of member interest of each board member. The work plan will be attached with each member agenda for reference.

New Business

Mitch Cromer provided members a copy of an article regarding free roaming cats and the issues associated with feral cats.

Jack Sprinkle made motion for this board to adopt the HSUS study dated May 2003 as a working guideline. Motion declined failed for second.

Second motion by Jack Sprinkle was for this Board to set a meeting schedule with a time frame starting in January 2007 and ending in May 2007 with 2 meetings a month. Motion declined failed for second.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next meeting will be January 18, 2006.