



Forsyth County
Animal Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
February 18 , 2010

Lori Sears, Chair
Julie Magness Vice-Chair
Joe Redman
Dr. Tim Strickland
Jennifer Tierney
Jerry Canady
D. Ritchie Brooks
Charles Cahill
Marsha Crumpler
Priscilla Ivester
Toby Cranfill

Members Present:

Julie Magness
Lori Sears
Joe Redman
Toby Cranfill
Marsha Crumpler
Priscilla Ivester
Dr Tim Strickland
Jennifer Tierney
Jerry Canady

Staff Present:

Tim Jennings
Matt Smith
Kelly Nash
Yevonne Sanborn
John Day
Judy Blevins

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Julie Magness at 6:10 P.M. Staff advised that Charles Cahill had provided notification he could not attend and that Lori Sears would be late.

- *Minutes*

A motion was made by Jerry Canady to approve the December 17, 2009 minutes and seconded by Dr. Tim Strickland. Minutes were approved.

- *Collection of Election Nomination forms*

Julie Magness requested nominations be turned in. Yevonne Sanborn reviewed nomination protocol.

Outreach Summary

Tim Jennings summarized the past work of the advisory board in 2007 and 2008 regarding tethering and it's possible involvement in dog aggression as well as impact upon the animal's health and welfare. Forsyth County animal bite reports indicate 8% of the biting animals can be identified as being primarily secured by a tether. Outreach actions regarding this issue prior to this meeting included 2 advertisements in the Winston-Salem Journal newspaper, and multiple public service announcements. Prior to this meeting there have been print, television and radio stories on the proposal. Methods established to gain public comment include a designated meeting for public comment, access to proposals on the County webpage & at the Animal Shelter, a designated telephone number and voicemail for comment, a designated email address for comment, and a comment period of February 10, 2010 – April 1, 2010 staff reported, as of today, the shelter has received 42 phone calls, 335 emails and 3 petitions showing 373 for and 31 against with 2 inconclusive. Tim Jennings introduced Laura Hensley from Triad Chapter of the Coalition to Unchain Dogs. Laura addressed the board regarding the resources the coalition provides. She advised that her group started in Durham, NC three years ago helping people keep their pets inside of a fenced area. The organization also helps with vet care i.e. spay/neuter which is a requirement, transporting animals to a vet if owner does not have transportation, works with low income neighborhoods, and work with landlords to install fencing on property. Ms Hensley advised that 450 dogs have been taken off tethers and 300 fences have been built. The approximate cost for the fence and dog houses is between \$350.00 to \$400.00 dollars.

Public Comment

Approximately 100 citizens were in attendance at the shelter. 11 signed up to provide comment.

Speakers who spoke in support of a prohibition on permanent tethering in Forsyth County were: State Senator Linda Garrou

Sherry Strader, Dogs Deserve Better
Colleen Byers, Forsyth Humane Society
Pam Griffin, Humane Solutions
Barbara Hutcherson, citizen,
Mary Poot, citizen
Kit Broadhurst, citizen
Lori Smith, Post Operation Peace
Janice Freeman, AARF.

Speakers that were opposed to a prohibition of tethering were:

Mitch Cromer, hunter
Richard Henning, citizen.

Old Business

- *Membership Terms:*

Tim Jennings advised that five board positions will become vacant May 30, 2010; as the members will have completed two consecutive terms of two year appointments as allowed by the Advisory Board by laws. Tim thanked the above members for their participation on the Advisory Board.

- *Annual Report:*

Before the April meeting staff will provide a draft Annual Report, including a section regarding the proposed prohibition of tethering. The board may determine at the April meeting to include or exclude portions of the 2009-2010 work plan in the report recommendations.

New Business

- *Hearing Tribunal: March 18, 2010*

The next hearing tribunal has a full schedule of 7 appellants. Julie Magness, Priscilla Ivester Jennifer Tierney, and Marsha Crumpler volunteered to be at the next hearing tribunal. The hearing will be held at 6:00 PM on March 18, 2010. Lori Sears encouraged all board members to volunteer for the Tribunal Hearings as this is a responsibility the commissioners assigned when they created the advisory board. Lori Sears also discussed that due to back log of appeals, hearings may need to be at least twice a month. More discussion will be at the next meeting.

- *Statistics Report*

Matt Smith advised the percentage of bites/quarantine was up by 23%, euthanasia was down by 3% and adoption was down by 6%. Citations issued by Animal Control Officers were up by 12% with violations up by 17%. Tim Jennings stated with licensing transactions down we may be requesting volunteers to help with canvassing.

- *Election of Officers*

Ballots were handed out with six nominees for Chair, Charles Cahill, Jerry Canady, Toby Cranfill, Marsha Crumpler, Joe Redman and Lori Sears. There were also six nominees for Vice Chair, Charles Cahill, Jerry Canady, Toby Cranfill, Marsha Crumpler, Priscilla Ivester and Julie Magness. Members turned in ballots, ballots were counted by Judy Blevins and Yevonne Sanborn. Judy Blevins announced the election results: Chairman Lori Sears (4 Votes) – Vice Chairman Charles Cahill (5 Votes).

Adjourn

Joe Redman motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dr Tim Strickland seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.