

**FINAL / Minutes of the Animal Welfare Committee
City Hall, City of College Park
July 24, 2014**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Taimi Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suzie Bellamy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patti Brothers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vivian Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Betty Gailes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harriet McNamee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christine Nagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dave Turley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christiane Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cindy Vernasco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Also present: Chris Melville (Journalism student, University of Maryland)
Tamela Terry (President, Humane Society of Prince George's County)

Chairperson Nagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the June 26, 2014 Animal Welfare Committee meeting minutes:

Moved: Ms. Bellamy

Second: Mr. Turley

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

II. ACO Update

The AWC account balance is \$8,859. No vet service expenditures were paid yet in July. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the total vet service expenditures were \$4,043. The amount available to cover the overage was \$4,839.

III. Shelter/Adoption Report

Intake – 4 kittens (2 litters of 2)

Adoptions -- 4 kittens (2 pairs)

Foster -- Black Magic and Charm

Petco – currently empty, pending vetting of 2 additional litters (in foster care)

IV. Proposed North County Shelter

Tamela Terry, SPCA President, spoke at the 4 Cities Meeting regarding the proposed North County Shelter. She informed them that the Baltimore-Washington corridor is one of the strongest areas in terms of donors, volunteers, and adopters. She has talked to many people who do not want to drive to Upper Marlboro, and some in attendance at the meeting had serious concerns and questions about the quality of services at the Prince George's County shelter. However, she also feels that more than one County shelter would be a good thing. She suggested communicating with community leaders (via letter, email, or phone calls) and letting them know how important this issue is.

Many decisions still have to be made regarding the scope, but Ms. Terry feels it is worth investigating. SPCA recommendations regarding the proposed shelter include taking advantage of the wide volunteer base in this area and also focusing on adoptions, rescue, and spay/neuter and field services to the City and County. If the proposed shelter took on licensing, strays, ownership redemption, bite cases, and holds, it would be very difficult to do it all well, which is why many successful organizations are now public/private partnerships.

Ms. Terry estimates the shelter to be 4-5 years off, and planners are trying to get enough municipalities interested to fund the feasibility study. The estimated cost of the study is \$240,000; College Park has put in \$25,000.

On the subject of no-kill, Ms. Terry felt that the only way to run a successful no-kill shelter is if the facility is not an open admission shelter and animals can be selected for intake. Her preference is that the proposed shelter be a facility for adoptions and spay/neuter only and that animal control not be a part of it.

The American Pet Products Manufacturers Association (APPMA) conducts an annual study to profile pet owners. In the last year, the APPMA estimated that, based on the 2010 census, there are 350,000 pet-owning households, 500,000 domestic pets, and 20,000 licensed pets in the County.

Ms. Terry stated that the SPCA is interested in changing the culture of animals that are mistreated. The SPCA clinic in Forestville has adoption events. They also offer free and low-cost spay/neuter services to Prince George's County residents, monthly shot clinics (rabies/\$10 and distemper), and microchipping the first Sunday of each month.

For additional information on SPCA, call (301) 262-5625 or visit their website at www.pgspca.org.

V. Stray Cats and Trap and Release (TNR)

Residents are complaining about feral and stray cats. The official City policy on stray and feral cats was read aloud to members in attendance. That notice went out because there was incorrect information on the North College Park list-serve and to ensure that AWC members have the correct information.

ACO Cooper stated that there will be a work session on TNR, and she has a draft of an informative PowerPoint presentation. Some of the questions that need to be answered are

what do other municipalities offer; what would be the burden for each option; where is the money, resources, equipment; will a third party be involved; will this be a City-funded program; what about municipal infractions; what are some of the pros, cons, and benefits, etc.

VI. Revision of the Resident Directory

Each October, Public Works hand delivers a multi-page booklet to all residents. ACO Cooper reviewed the pages on Animal Control, Animal Welfare Committee, Wildlife, General Animal Control; changes have to be in by tomorrow.

VII. AWC Web Page Update

The Animal Welfare Committee section has not yet been completed.

VIII. Shelter/Petco Schedule

Ms. Anderson and Ms. Lachman – Fridays in August
Co-Chair Nagle – August 10
Co-Chair McNamee – August 3 and 17

IX. Upcoming Events

- Hollywood Farmer’s Market (microchipping) – Saturday, July 26 (dog owners are not required to live in College Park to have their dog(s) microchipped)
- 4 Cities Meeting – Wednesday, July 30
- Doggie Dive-In – Tuesday, September 2 (ACO Cooper is checking to see if the event will occur due to ongoing construction at Linson Pool)
- College Park Day – Saturday, September 27

X. Other Issues

- A recently revised handout from the City Clerk, “Important Reminders for Members of College Park’s Boards and Committees,” was distributed to all in attendance.
- A Board member wants to promote the AWC as well as donations for the shelter; the AWC will provide a donation box for the Farmer’s Market.

XI. Adjournment

The AWC meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next AWC meeting is scheduled for August 28 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Debra Pinkett