

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

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Taimi Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Suzie Bellamy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Patti Brothers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vivian Cooper	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Christiane Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cindy Vernasco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Also present: Sharon Fletcher, Public Services
Seth Gomoljak, College Park Resident, Website Designer
Bob Ryan, Director, Department of Public Services

Co-Chair Nagle called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

I. Meeting Minutes

The March 27, 2014 Animal Welfare Committee meeting minutes were not reviewed due to lack of a quorum.

II. Potential Website Revisions

Ms. Fletcher pulled up the College Park City website for AWC members to view; suggestions for the revised AWC website included the following:

- Link from Animal Control to AWC website
- Individual AWC tab under “Boards and Commissions”
- Include information on Petco and the adoption program in the content
- Pictures of animals (must have releases for humans)
- A “How Can I Help” section for supplies, fostering, volunteers, donations, etc.
- Link from the AWC website to Petfinder
- Section to inform residents about “Things of Interest” such as the potential regional shelter, upcoming events, etc.

- Link College Park Animal Shelter and College Park Humane Society to AWC website
- Include contact phone numbers and the AWC email address for both co-chairs

Mr. Gomoljak suggested that the AWC write up the content before he can determine the design for the AWC website. He stated that the biggest challenge will be a widget for Petfinder; Ms. Fletcher suggested using stock images. He will design a workaround and send Ms. Fletcher a mockup to review.

Ms. Fletcher will update the website quarterly via ACO Cooper. The AWC co-chairs will work on the content and allow the AWC members to review it before submitting it to Ms. Fletcher within 2 weeks. Ms. Fletcher will have to raise any policy issues with another committee after the draft of the content has been received.

III. Upcoming Events

Maryland Day - April 26 from 10am to 4pm - ACO Cooper has tri-folds and bone-shaped pet waste bags as handouts); 100,000 people are expected to attend (coverage: Ms. Brothers - morning, Co-Chair McNamee - afternoon, ACO Cooper - all day)

Berwyn Heights Day – May 3 (Ms. Anderson and Ms. Lachman will attend)

Greenbelt Pet Expo – June 7 - 10am to 2pm; rain date TBD (Co-Chairs McNamee and Nagle will attend)

IV. Farmer’s Market

Co-Chair Nagle requested volunteers for the Farmer’s Market on Hollywood Road, which is held each Saturday beginning April 26 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. She suggested planning a microchipping event in June at one of the Farmer’s Market locations and advertising it via the City website.

V. ACO Report

The AWC currently has a balance of \$8,215.89. The veterinary services budget was overspent by \$1,010 (\$4,010/\$3,000). This line item was offset by utilizing the animal control cost recovery which has collected a total of \$4,269, leaving a current balance of \$3,259.

VI. Shelter/Adoption Report

Cat adoptions: Badger & Panther, Flipper
 Cat in foster: Charm
 Cats in Petco: Black Magic, Cloud
 Dogs in program: 0
 Rabbit in shelter: Ostara
 Rabbits pending return: Pete, Sophie (owner surrender)

VII. Adoptions-Screening Followup

Co-chair Nagle suggested a followup to the adoptions, and it was stated that Ms. Anderson has agreed to resume obtaining feedback from new pet owners. Ms. Brothers will send Ms. Anderson information on the adoptions that occurred in the last few months.

VIII. Equipment Purchases – New Cages

ACO Cooper stated that, according to the Finance Department, the animal control cost recovery line item covers any expenditure overage, so those funds can be used to purchase equipment.

IX. Shelter/Petco Schedules

The volunteer shelter and Petco schedules for May are filled.

X. City Policy Issues

- Mr. Ryan stated that the funded staffing for animal control has not changed in the past 15 years, and no additional staffing is proposed in the FY15 budget. He also informed AWC members that the Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Dildine, can also assist with animals in the shelter, when needed, in addition to the volunteers. Co-Chair Nagle was concerned about AWC volunteers being expected to commit to a 40-hr. schedule when ACO Cooper is on paid leave or travel as opposed to only filling in on weekends or a day. She does not want animals from the shelter taken to the County, but Mr. Ryan explained that the County is the City's backup. ACO Cooper explained that when she intakes animals, the owner signs an "Owner Surrender" and there is no guarantee regarding the disposition of the animal, especially those that she is unfamiliar with since they have to pass social, behavioral, and medical qualifications before they can be accepted into the adoption program. AWC members further expressed concern about Mr. Ryan ordering the shelter to be emptied out when ACO Cooper is away. Mr. Ryan said that would not occur. He clarified that while ACO Cooper is away, Mr. Dildine will provide coverage for the animals that are in the shelter, and those that are there will not be turned over to the County. Mr. Ryan will get more information over the weekend and let AWC members know when volunteers will be needed.
- The City ceased using the All Dogs Club due to an incident involving a dog that was placed there by the City who jumped over the 6' fence, got into an altercation with another dog, and someone was bitten while trying to break it up. The City attorney is currently negotiating with All Dogs Club to come up with an agreement that satisfies both parties and will enable them to become a resource for the City again. In addition, the City would like to use the services of Roxie's Fund, which is also run by Cindy Vernasco, to take ownership of dogs that are unable to be returned to their owners and make them available for adoption.

XI. Proposed North County Shelter

Mr. Ryan, along with the City Manager, Greenbelt City Manager, and representatives from the SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County, attended a meeting to discuss a future opportunity for the County to build a north County shelter. By the end of the meeting, everyone agreed that it would be a good idea, especially since the County representatives stated that most of their adopters come from north County; i.e., the Rt. 1 corridor as well as locations from Mt. Rainier to Laurel. They felt that the shelter would allow them to save more animals. There was also a discussion regarding an "animal mall" or a County facility where residents could adopt animals, which could be located adjacent to a pet shop for the purchase of pet food and supplies, and possibly attract a veterinarian to co-locate in that area to provide pet medical care. The County representatives felt that such a facility may attract more people to an adoption center. There was further discussion regarding how the shelter would be run and staffed, as well as an area between the beltway and the Rt. 1 connector in the Beltsville/Murkirk area as the best location. The possibility of leasing a warehouse instead of building a new structure for the shelter was also discussed.

The County has requested municipalities to donate funds for a feasibility study for the proposed shelter; therefore, \$25,000 has been set aside in the FY15 budget for this study through the efforts of Councilmember Wojahn. Mr. Ryan likes the idea of a cooperative project and would prefer to have the use of a nearby central facility. He suggested that the AWC be involved in this effort.

XII. Other Business

- Co-Chair McNamee suggested putting together a list of animal rescue organizations that deal with feral or stray cats to post on the AWC website; however, ACO Cooper suggested that residents contact Alley Cat Rescue, their local animal control, or Prince George's County Animal Control.
- Co-Chair McNamee spoke with Mr. Turley, and he is busy caring for his father who needs 24-hr. care.

XIII. Adjournment

The AWC meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. The next AWC meeting is scheduled for May 22 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Debra Pinkett, Contract Secretary for the City of College Park