

**FINAL / Minutes of the Animal Welfare Committee
City Hall, City of College Park
May 22, 2014**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Taimi Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Suzie Bellamy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patti Brothers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vivian Cooper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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: Bill Gardiner, Asst. City Manager
Councilmember Denise Mitchell

Chairperson McNamee called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

I. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

The April 24, 2014 Animal Welfare Committee meeting minutes were not reviewed due to lack of a quorum. Chairperson McNamee will send an email to AWC members for approval of the minutes via email to the secretary.

II. ACO Report

No report; the Animal Control Officer was not in attendance.

III. Shelter/Adoption Report

No report; the Animal Control Officer was not in attendance.

IV. Peopoaws North County Shelter

Chairpersons McNamee and Nagle recently attended a meeting held by Councilmember Wojahn for residents of District 1 regarding whether the possibility of a shelter in north Prince George's County. If the municipalities in the northern party of the County raise \$75,000 for the feasibility study, the County will donate the rest of the money. One of the

main unanswered questions is who would operate the facility? There is some interest from the SPCA/Humane Society; however, they are a volunteer organization with a small budget and no staff. Councilmember Wojahn and Chairperson McNamee are currently developing a list of County organizations and individuals (rescue organizations, animal product supply companies, veterinarians, etc.) who will support the County in moving ahead with the shelter after the feasibility study. At the end of the meeting, Chairperson McNamee requested that although the AWC is not involved in the planning process, the AWC would like to be informed about the planning meetings for the proposed shelter.

V. AWC Web Page

Chairperson Nagle has begun working on the AWC web page. Chairperson McNamee distributed the content writeup, and the proposed edits/links were discussed. The revised web page will be submitted to Mr. Gomoljak, website designer, who will review it and send it on to Ms. Fletcher of Public Services.

VI. Upcoming Event

- College Park Woods Neighborhood Watch Festival – June 7 (AWC members will be unable to attend due to Greenbelt Pet Expo)
- Greenbelt Pet Expo – June 7 - 12 noon to 4:00 pm

VII. Shelter/Petco Schedule

Ms. Anderson and Ms. Lachman – every Friday
Chairpersons McNamee and Nagle – June 8
Chairperson McNamee – June 22

VIII. Other Issues

- Chairperson Nagle introduced Barbara Thrush, who briefly stopped in at the AWC meeting. Ms. Thrush was the sponsor of the Spay/Neuter Bill that was signed into law on May 16, 2014 by Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. The bill will provide low-cost vouchers for low-income residents to fund reasonable and low-cost sterilization of cats and dogs in the state. Effective October 1, 2014, consumers can expect to pay additional pet food costs as follows: cat owners will pay an additional 24 cents and dog owners will pay an additional 48 cents per animal per year in hopes of raising millions of dollars to fund the sterilization costs. Ms. Thrush is also considering providing a mobile van and hiring a veterinarian to visit some of the neighborhoods and spay and neuter some of the animals or to possibly pick up citizens and transport them and their animals to a facility to get their animal spayed or neutered.
- Chairperson Nagle stated that the Hollywood Farmer's Market now allows dogs on the property and suggested providing microchipping for dogs at that location.
- Councilmember Mitchell stated that the City Council has put money in the budget for the feasibility study for the proposed North County shelter. If the shelter does not come into fruition and the funds are not used, she suggested that the AWC request

that the Council keep the funds in the budget to be used to upgrade the current animal shelter.

- Chairperson McNamee stated that the AWC recently received \$500 from the Petco Foundation.
- Chairperson Nagle discussed the possibility of purchasing a \$50 habitat for a family who adopted Sophie and Pete (rabbits).

Motion: To purchase a rabbit habitat

Moved: Chairperson McNamee

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: 0

Second: Ms. Bellamy

Abstain: 0

IX. Adjournment

The AWC meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next AWC meeting is scheduled for June 26 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Debra Pinkett