

Animal Welfare Committee Meeting
January 26, 2023
Via Teleconferencing through Zoom
7:30pm

| Term Exp | Members | Present | Absent |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Staff | Bob Ryan | X | |
| Staff | Rebecca Bailey | X | |
| 6/30/2025 | Suzie Bellamy | X | |
| 6/30/2025 | Marci Booth | X | |
| 06/30/2024 | Stephanie Butler | X | |
| 06/30/2024 | Eugene Chay | X | |
| 06/30/2025 | Matt Doyle | | X |
| 06/30/2023 | Lisa Ealley | X | |
| 6/30/2024 | Sharon O'Malley | X | |
| 6/30/2024 | Kathy Rodeffer (left 8:35pm) | X | |
| 6/30/2023 | Stephanie Stullich | | X |
| 6/20/2024 | Bonnie Swart | | X |
| Honorary | Kennis Termini (left 8:20pm) | X | |

Also present: Sheryl DeWalt, contract secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by Ms. Ealley, Co-Chair.

1. The agenda was reviewed, and a motion was made by Ms. Booth to accept it. Mr. Chay seconded the motion. **Motion carries 8-0-0.**
2. The December 8, 2022, minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Ms. Bellamy to accept the minutes. Ms. Rodeffer seconded the motion. **Motion carries 7-0-1.**
3. ACO Report
 - Ms. Bailey emailed her report prior to the meeting.
 - There are 2 cats in the shelter which should be placed in a foster family. They are from the Wichita house and need socialization. They should be eligible for adoption.
 - There are 9 additional feral cats at the Wichita house that caught fire. Mr. Ryan reported that the house is secure, and the abatement process has begun. The feral cats are supposed to be fed on the neighbor's property rather than at the house which had the fire. AWC is not supposed to be responsible for feeding the cats, although several members have donated food to assist. There was no final resolution to the feeding issue.
 - There is also a rat problem at the house on Wichita. The City has contracted with Orkin to do gas treatments in the rat burrows. There will be two treatments and the first one will be January 31.
 - The City is looking for more foster families.
 - There is a new low cost clinic, Bowie Spay and Neuter. Ms. Bailey used them with the feral cats on Wichita.
 - Ms. Bailey asked for assistance in transporting animals for medical appointments. Ms. Butler volunteered to assist when needed.
 - There was mention of high school students, who need service hours, caring more the cats. Mr. Ryan and Ms. Bailey will check with the City on the age requirements.

- Ms. Bailey spoke to Dr. Hepner about the spring rabies/microchip clinic. She has proposed April 16, April 23, or May 7.
 - Ms. Bailey is waiting on the quote for fencing in the shelter.
 - Ms. Bailey stated that she will be attending the Humane Pro Conference in April in New Orleans. Mr. Ryan will inquire if the conference fee can be covered for those AWC members who would like to attend the conference virtually.
4. Ms. Stulich sent an email regarding the cat adoption program at Petco in Laurel as she was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Volunteers are needed to assist with the caretaking of the cats at Petco. Currently, most of the volunteers are through Beltsville Community Cats. Several members stated that a monthly schedule needs to be created and distributed. This will be further discussed at the February AWC meeting.
5. Municipal Scene Articles –
- a. February – Hazards of Chocolate Candy – Ms. Butler
 - b. March – Toxic plants - Mr. Doyle
 - c. April – Benefits of vaccinations, including flu vaccine and microchips – Ms. Ealley
 - d. May – Safety of pets in car – Ms. Bellamy
 - e. June – Service pets vs mental health/comfort pets – what is the difference – Ms. O'Malley
6. Discussed that the City of Laurel has proposed to build a new shelter. The committee has suggested that there should be a new shelter for College Park, one that is more accessible to the public when there are animals available for adoption. Ideas on where the shelter could be built:
- a. Beside the dog park
 - b. College Park woods pool property
- Mr. Ryan stated he will bring up the idea to the City Manager.
7. The date of the next virtual meeting will be on February 23, 2023, at 7:30pm. Ms. Bellamy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Ms. Booth. **Motion carries 6-0-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl DeWalt, contract secretary.