

Animal Welfare Committee Meeting
 August 25, 2022
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	X	
6/30/2023	Patti Stange		X
6/30/2023	Stephanie Stulich (a 7:34pm)	X	
6/20/2024	Bonnie Swart		X
Honorary	Kennis Termini		X

Also present: Kenny Young, City of College Park Manager, Chris Jenkins, Code Enforcement Supervisor, Sheryl DeWalt, contract secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Ms. Ealley, Co-Chair. Mr. Ryan introduced Chris Jenkins who has been fielding calls this week during Ms. Bailey's vacation. Mr. Ryan introduced City Manager, Kenny Young. The committee expressed sympathy to Ms. Bellamy for the loss of her husband.

1. The agenda was reviewed, and a motion was made by Ms. Bellamy to accept it. Ms. Booth seconded the motion. **Motion carries 8-0-0.**

2. The July 28, 2022, minutes were reviewed. Ms. DeWalt noted that she has received updated information on term expiration dates for several members and they have been corrected. A motion was made by Ms. Bellamy to accept the minutes. Ms. Rodeffer seconded the motion. **Motion carries 8-0-0.**

3. Mr. Young fielded questions from the committee on various animal issues and concerns:
 - a. Unfavorable postings on NextDoor regarding reaching the ACO. Mr. Young stated that NextDoor is not regarded as a legitimate publication for the City, although the postings are monitored when College Park is mentioned. He is also not really in favor of departments with staff of 1. He has spoken to Mr. Ryan about including the hiring of an additional officer for the next fiscal year.
 - b. There are residents complaining that Prince George's County is not very responsive when Ms. Bailey is out. Mr. Young stated that he has spoken with Prince George's County Animal Welfare and has been told that College Park is unique in having an ACO; only Bowie, Greenbelt and Laurel have ACO's besides College Park. The rest of the towns depend upon the County Animal Control to assist. Mr. Ryan also stated that Nellie, the

- Greenbelt ACO, provides shelter care when Rebecca is off. It was brought up that Nellie works a full-time job at Greenbelt and does not always have the time for College Park.
- c. Can there not be cross-training of city staff to cover when the ACO is off, on vacation, sick, etc.? There has to be someone who has credentials in animal welfare to be able to handle the calls and/or animal situations. It is possible that there could be someone on staff willing to cross train and receive the credentials, but not probable.
 - d. Shouldn't the information about the ACO and animal welfare be shared with the neighborhood associations and civic association Presidents? Why can't information be shared in the College Park "Here & Now"? Ms. Stulich stated she is on the board of the "Here & Now" and will speak to them about doing a human-interest story on the ACO and the shelter. There are also the Municipal Scene tips of the month, but it would be more advantageous to have more space for information on animal health and welfare. Mr. Young will work with City Staff on having the information sent out via social media.
 - e. Ms. Rodeffer stated that she has the name of a person who is capable of handling shelter coverage and will send the information to Mr. Ryan.
 - f. Discussed potential for a North County animal shelter. The 2016 feasibility study was emailed out to the committee prior to the meeting; Mr. Ryan encouraged the committee to read through the study. It is slated for FY 2025, but the committee does not believe the shelter can wait that long to be added to the budget and then take several years to build. Mr. Young stated he did reach out to County Councilmembers Tom Dernoga and Danielle Glaros, but has not heard back from them. He will reach out to them again. Mr. Ryan reminded everyone that the City of College Park paid \$25,000 for the study. The committee also expressed that the College Park "shelter" is more of a holding place. It's small and it's very hard to have cats and dogs in the shelter at the same time. Mr. Ryan stated that he has spoken to Public Works about possible upgrades to the shelter to make it better to house different animal species if needed.
4. ACO Report from Ms. Bailey was emailed out to the committee earlier and reviewed by Mr. Ryan.
- a. October 2 has been confirmed for the Rabies/Microchip clinic and will be set up at Davis Hall with the trailer in the parking lot. Mr. Ryan will speak to communications about advertising the event. Ms. DeWalt will email out a sign-up sheet to the committee for volunteers.
 - b. College Park Day is October 15. AWC will have table space under the City tent. Ms. DeWalt will send out a sign-up sheet for volunteers.
 - c. Summation of the ACO report:
 - i. 26 calls were handled
 - ii. 1 bunny was adopted
 - iii. 4 dogs were returned to their owners
 - iv. 1 Cane Corso dog, which was aggressive, was taken to Prince George's County
 - v. There are 14 kittens in foster care.
 - vi. There is 1 cat at Petco that is scheduled to be adopted on Friday, August 26. There is a mother and 5 kittens that will be ready to go into Petco once they are fully vetted.
 - vii. Ms. Stulich shared that Lizzie, the cat with the skin condition and anxiety, is doing very well after three months in foster care. Lizzie will be posted on Pet Finder and on the City's Facebook page.

5. Municipal Scene Articles –
 - a. September – Pet immunization month – Ms. Rodeffer - completed
 - b. October – Halloween Hazards – Ms. Booth
 - c. November – Holiday foods – Ms. Bellamy
 - d. December – Why animals should not be given as holiday presents – Ms. Rodeffer
 - e. January – Value of having a pet for therapy, such as dealing with PTSD – Ms. O'Malley

6. Patti Stange's recognition video is almost completed. Ms. O'Malley is assisting with the video. Ms. Termini should be sending in her information to Ms. Stulich for her honorary membership.

7. The date of the next virtual meeting will be on September 15, 2022, at 7:30pm. Ms. Rodeffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Ms. Booth. **Motion carries 8-0-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl DeWalt, contract secretary.