

Minutes of the Oconee County Animal Services Advisory Board
Wednesday, July 7, 2021
OCAS Conference Room, 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm by Acting Chairperson, Angie Eades. Members present were Marsha Mitchell- Vice Chair, Heather Macbeth- Secretary, Kelsey Fox, and Debbie Caffery. Crystal Berisko, Oconee County Animal Services Manager, was present. Nina Wingrove, President of Friends of Oconee Animal Shelter was also present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Eades raised the review and approval of the minutes from the May 12, 2021 called meeting after confirming everyone had reviewed the minutes sent by Secretary Macbeth. Caffery made the motion to approve the minutes and Macbeth seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments – limit of 5 minutes each

No public comments

4. Election of new Officers

Acting Chairperson Eades reported new officer nominations as follows:

Kelsey Fox- Chairperson. Fox accepted the nomination.

Marsha Mitchell – Retain position as Vice Chair- Mitchell accepted the nomination.

Heather Macbeth- Retain position as Secretary. Macbeth accepted the nomination.

Election of new officers was unanimously approved.

5. Manager of Animal Services Updates – Crystal Berisko

Ordinance- Manager Berisko indicated that the proposed ordinance revisions have been sent to the county attorney for review and editing. Proposed revisions were passed unanimously by the board at the May 12 meeting.

Bylaws- Manager Berisko integrated previous versions to one document. Proposed bylaws have been sent to the county attorney for review and editing. Once they are received back from the attorney the Animal Services Board will review for approval. Once approved they will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. If approved, this will render any previous versions null and void.

Projects- None pending

Stats- Manager Berisko reported fiscal year/calendar year intake, outcome, death and euthanasia counts. The current inventory is 20 dogs and 128 cats at the shelter.

Manager Berisko indicated that she will be revising Key Performance Indicators(KPI) reports to better reflect outcomes and officer activities.

-KPI is reported to the county. Suggested revisions discussed:

- Activities per case vs. Calls
- Intakes- averaging 900-1000 animals annually
- Outcomes- Live release rate above 90%
- Euthanasia
- Wingrove suggested tracking the average length of stay at the shelter.

-Potential goals discussed:

- Decrease intakes/owner surrender
- Assist with education and training
- Schedule appointments with potential owner surrender to provider resources (behavioral, financial, food, medicine)
 - This is the updated mission of Friends of OCAS
- Return to home rate- reunite with owners
 - All adoptions and return to owners are microchipped.
- Education
 - Public Service Announcements of website
 - Highlight sections of the County Code
 - Suggestion for Quarterly meetings with the public to provide education
 - Consider sponsors
 - Record and post on the County website

Events- 7/19/21-7/25/21- PetSmart National Adoption Week in store. Friends of OCAS discussed a potential “Christmas in July” event for low cost cat adoptions to run concurrently with National Adoption week.

August- Microchip and Pet tags free for Oconee County residents the month of August. Already microchipped pets can check to ensure they are registered.

September- Volunteer Appreciation. Date to be determined

September- Rabies clinic and Microchip and Pet tag event.

Emergency Preparedness Plan- Meeting to be held 7/28 to set up a Task Force. This Task force will consist of county citizens/volunteers in Athens/Clarke County, Oconee County, and Barrow County.

The Task force will aid in emergencies (e.g flood areas, natural disasters) to house animals for people in need.

Resources to be added to the Plan

Emergency Shelter Action Plan-

Evacuation Plan with emergency exits will be posted in the shelter. Plan includes emergency numbers and is based on Best Friends and ASPCA guidelines.

Other- none

6. Renovations project update-

Progress of the Animal Shelter renovation phase 2: Completed. Gates installed. Manager Berisko to review solutions for doors.

7. Upcoming Meeting Dates

October 13, 2021

February 9, 2022

April 13, 2022

Shelter conference room will be the location for future meetings. Motion passed at May 12 meeting. .

8. New Business

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet- Dinner will be held in September at Chops and Hops. Date to be determined. Manager Berisko indicated a sponsor has been identified to fund the event. The budget to be determined by Manager Berisko. The board discussed potential gifts for the volunteers as well as a theme for the event.

Volunteers- Sign up genius is now available on the Website. 1st volunteer training session held 7/7 at 5pm. Volunteers can now register on-line. A low level paid version of sign up genius will be reviewed for greater functionality and ability to update.

9. Closing Comments – none

10. Adjournment

Macbeth made the motion to adjourn at 7:23, and Caffery seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.