



Public Safety Department
Animal Services Division
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Animal Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes **April 26, 2017**

In attendance: Jean Peelen, Lisa Barnott, Lisa Williams, David Doyens, Gerald Thomas, Jana Martin, Bob Smith, Public Safety.

Meeting called to order, March meeting minutes approved with a change.

A change was added to previous meeting minutes, the announcement that Rebecca Neal was leaving the Animal Services Advisory Board because she was elected to the board of the Manatee County Humane Society.

Division Chief Updates Animal Services updates were given by Bob Smith. Attached.

(1) Jean Peelen, on behalf of the board, asked if representatives from animal services would be attending the advisory board meetings in the future. It was noted that MCAS chief, Sarah Brown is focusing more on operational business and others, including Hans Wohlfahrt, would also not be attending.

Public comments

County Commissioner, Carol Whitmore, brought up the subject of barking dog complaints. A member of the community expressed to her that he wanted to make complaints about neighbor's dogs but, could not do so as he cannot remain anonymous in his complaint. Carol asked if we would consider advising that a change be made in the law so that people can register a complaint anonymously in certain circumstances. Bob Smith emailing copies of the animal ordinance.

ARC is working with Sarah Brown to loosen the guidelines for the spay and neuter program. They want to be able to use the funding and have the surgeries done. There is still a hold up with the wording, it should be easier and more efficient for the vouchers to be used with low income households. Clerk of Courts is rejecting vouchers according to some of the limits.

Animal Services Advisory Board annual report was organized and distributed by chair, Jean Peelen. She thanked Animal Network for paying for the printing and the binders. The report will be presented to the county commission at the June 6 meeting, in the Reports section.

Discussion by the board of new animal-related topics the advisory board is interested in working on this next year.

1. Distracted driving, pets loose inside of moving vehicles cause a problem.
2. Regulating service/comfort animals. Growing problem of 'fake' service animals and how this is affecting true service animals and businesses.
3. Doggy Dining ordinance. Expired in 2009, needs to be reinstated.
4. Apartments, rental homes, homeowner's associations restricting breeds. Many of our MCAS pets are pit-bull types, how to change landlord/insurance restrictions.
5. Breeding licenses.

Board comments

1. Looking for resources to help with stray or injured pets after hours. Animal Services officers respond to emergencies only after hours. We do not have officers to be on duty full time, all night long.
2. Dog park rules and etiquette. Children playing in the dog parks when they have larger parks just for them. Tension arising from dogs having to mix with the children.
3. Question arose concerning how the advisory board presents the annual report to the Board of County Commissioners. Bob Smith recommended making 10 copies and added that a power point presentation can be set up, if needed. An electronic version of the report is needed, as well.
 - A. The Animal Services Advisory Board should contact our county board representatives and Jean will hold the report until about two weeks before the meeting, so that it doesn't get buried.
 - B. No action will be taken by the BOCC at the meeting of presentation, they will have to consider the report and decide how to proceed. Advisory board can offer guidance on how to handle the issues presented.

Bob Smith announced that the position is still available for the Animal Services Advisory Board. Position is for a person affiliated with an animal rescue.

Next meeting will be at 5:45 pm, May 31, 2017 at Manatee County Animal Services.

Meeting adjourned. 7:30 pm

Manatee County Animal Services Advisory Board Minutes 4/26/17.