

ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Office of Animal Services

7315 Muncaster Mill Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Derwood, MD 20855

I. Call to Order (6:01 pm)

Meeting called order by Jan Armstrong and 2nd by Vicki Thomas.

Present In-Person: Melissa Rubin, Chair; Vicki Thomas, Vice Chair; Jan Armstrong; Linda McMakin; Elizabeth Mullen; Thomas J. Koenig; Dr. Gregory Lawrence; and Bonnie White

Present Virtually via Microsoft Teams: Jennifer Hughes, Parliamentarian, Kim Haden; Maureen Smith, and Sandy Yuen

Absent: Dr. Roxanne Borrok

Present In-Person Staff: Trish Ranshaw

Guest Speakers:

Ken Hartman, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive

Dr. Sara Pizano, Shelter Consultant, Maddie's Million Pet Challenge (MMPC)/Team Shelter USA

Cameron Moore, Shelter Consultant, Maddie's Million Pet Challenge (MMPC)/Team Shelter USA

Handout: Issues, Values and Guides for Committee Chairs & Committee Members. MMCP report was previously distributed.

Motion to Approve 9/29/23 Minutes: 1st Approved by Jan Armstrong and 2nd by Vicki Thomas. Unanimous vote: All in favor.

II. Introductions (6:04 pm)

Melissa Rubin welcomed everyone back and asked for introductions of members and guests which included Ken Hartman from the County Executive's Office who will serve as the Committee's facilitator until further notice and shelter consultants Dr. Sara Pizano and Cameron Moore from the Maddie's Million Pet Challenge.

III. Dr. Pizano for MMPC Report (6:20 pm)

Dr. Pizano began by reminding the Committee to not get lost in the details and the goal of the report is how to help pets and people in our community. She went through the report and provided clarification with the following comments noted:

- A main goal is to spay and neuter (S/N) the parents of kittens that come in, preferably on day one.
- Surgery should occur on day one or two and be released by day three.
- There should be no stray holds for cats, specifically do not hold stray cats for three days.
- Community cats come in when surgery frees up.
- Stray cats should not be brought into the shelter until the S/N & release program is in place.
- Work on ordinance provisions for this to occur.
- Targeted S/N is one goal and there are different ways of doing it.
- Freelance felines do return home or to their familiar location after being away for some time. Cats do not get lost.
- Release dogs intact to fosters to adopt so people can see them.

Action Item: Mr. Hartman added that along with the MMCP report, he will look at the draft bill and the Community Cat Bill to have it sent to the County Council within one year. Ms. Rubin added the Committee will

meet back with Dr. Pizano later with Mr. Hartman regarding the Community Cat Bill to see what other shelters do when cats cannot be adopted.

Dr. Pizano continued with the report with the final comments noted:

- Everyone should work together to help set people with the help and support needed.
- Safe Keeps stay with fosters for thirty days rather than in the shelter.
- Safe Keep should only be extended another thirty days if another foster home is available.
- Animals in foster care that want to be adopted should go straight to the adopter once they are S/N and paperwork finalized with the shelter.
- Refer to Page 30 of report “Priorities for the Advisory Committee” and “Moving Forward”.

IV. Ken Hartman for Issues, Values and Guides for Committee Chairs & Committee Members (6:51 pm)

Mr. Hartman reviewed the handout and referred to pages 3 & 4 “Values” emphasizing committee members:

- Practice good listening skills.
- Check history at the door.
- If values are not followed, members will be parked.

Action Item: Mr. Hartman asks that every member submit a list of values and list of priorities for the year due two weeks from tonight’s meeting. He also would like three volunteers (or will be assigned) to work with him and Ms. Rubin to create a value statement and operational guidelines.

V. Melissa Rubin for Next Meeting Date

Ms. Rubin asked if there is any need to reschedule the 12/7 ASAC meeting as it falls on the holiday, Hanukkah.

Action item: Email her by Monday, November 20th if you would like the next meeting to be rescheduled.

VI. Public Comment

- Bruce Cohen (6:54 pm) dogs are left too long in kennel overnight.
- Susan Rich (6:56 pm).

VII. Meeting Adjourned (6:57 pm)

Jan Armstrong made a motion to adjourn the meeting and 2nd by Linda McMakin. Unanimous vote: All in favor. Approved.