

## ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Office of Animal Services

7315 Muncaster Mill Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Derwood, MD 20855

#### I. **Call to Order** **7:00 p.m.**

Meeting called to order by Jennifer Hughes, Parliamentarian

**Present In-Person:** Jennifer Hughes, Parliamentarian; Jan Armstrong; Dr. Roxanne Borrok; Kim Haden; Elizabeth Mullen; Vicki Thomas; Sandy Yuen; Thomas J. Koenig; Dr. Gregory Lawrence; and Bonnie White.

**Present Virtually via Microsoft Teams:** Maureen Smith.

**Absent:** Melissa Rubin, Chair; Stephanie Arrington, Vice Chair; and Linda McMakin.

**Staff:** Patricia Ranshaw.

**Handouts:** May 4, 2023, Agenda; April 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes, and the Committee's Priority Areas.

#### II. **Review and Approve April 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes** **7:01 p.m.**

Review April 12, 2023, meeting minutes. **Motion by Elizabeth Mullen to approve minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jan Armstrong. Vote – Approved.**

#### III. **Spay/Neuter Initiative Update – Thomas J. Koenig, Jennifer Hughes** **7:03 p.m.**

Thomas Koenig, Bonnie White, and Dr. Gregory Lawrence attended the Office of Animal Services (OAS) FY24 Recommended Operating Budget Worksession held by the Montgomery County Council's Public Safety (PS) Committee on Friday, April 28, 2023. Regarding the Spay/Neuter Initiative, the Council staff made a motion to reduce the OAS budget by \$235,000 (the line item for the Spay and Neuter Program for low-income community outreach). The PS Committee voted 3-0 in support of the motion by Council staff.

**Motion by Jennifer Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vicky Thomas at 7:32 p.m.:** Prepare correspondence to Marc Elrich, County Executive of Montgomery County and to Evan Glass, President of the Montgomery County Council stating the ASAC is disappointed that the \$235,000 proposed by the County Executive was reduced, that this line item was not put on the Reconciliation list and asking for commitment reconsideration and/or find the funds for this essential program.

**IV. Priority Areas – Jennifer Hughes** **7:33 p.m.**

Handout regarding priority areas ASAC members signed up to work on was distributed. Updates were provided for priority areas. Work on the 5 priority areas will continue.

**For follow-up:** Jennifer Hughes will follow-up with Maureen Smith regarding her selection(s) of a priority area(s).

**V. Shelter Operations Update – Beth Mullen, Thomas Koenig** **7:46 p.m.**

Shelter operations and animal care were discussed. Director Koenig believes fosters and volunteers can help with some of the shelter operations and animal care issues/concerns. Mr. Koenig will update the Committee when the new cleaning/feeding protocols have been implemented. Mr. Koenig will also provide information at the next ASAC meeting regarding the specific steps being taken to augment existing foster and rescue partnerships with the goal of reducing the population at MCASAC.

**Next steps: continue meeting to discuss shelter care coverage, foster/rescue program and moving forward/next steps.**

**VI. Other Updates – Kim Haden** **8:10 p.m.**

Kim Haden shared that she went on a call with Officer Biggs, that she learned a lot and that everyone was passionate and welcoming. Ms. Haden also shared that the ride along experience was eye opening and that she appreciated the time the officers spent with her. Some of the other ASAC members have also gone on a ride along, and others have not.

**VII. Public Comment By**

Bruce Cohen

**8:15 p.m.**

Susan Rich

**8:20 p.m.**

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned**

**8:24 p.m.**

Motion by Kim Haden.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Elizabeth Mullen.

Unanimous vote: All in favor. Approved.