

## **Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission Minutes**

The fifteenth regular meeting of the Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 in the Main Conference Room of the Drumcastle Government Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair, Deborah Stone-Hess, Jon Christiana, Joy Freedman, Ann Gearhart, Michelle Guarino, Roy Plummer, Jean Townsend, VMD, Janice Vincent and Julianne Zimmer.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lavinia Ringgold

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None

### **I. Reading and Approval of the Minutes**

Motion: To approve the minutes of October 18, 2016, as presented.

Motion by: Ann Gearhart  
Second by: Roy Plummer  
Decision: Unanimous Approval

### **II. New Business**

#### New Commission Member

The Chair introduced Jon Christiana. Mr. Christiana owns an insurance company and is familiar with insurance issues involving animals. He has been a Baltimore County resident for thirty years.

#### Summary of Liaison Committee Meeting

Baltimore County Animal Services' (BCAS) core volunteer program is experimenting with Volgistics, a volunteer management software program. This software is more complicated than expected. It has been able to calculate volunteer hours for those utilizing it.

The volunteer handbook is currently being updated. This is a long process. Volunteer Coordinator, Heidi Griswold, now has between 80 and 100 volunteers that have been oriented and trained on the volunteer list. BCAS is looking for volunteers willing to interact more with potential adopters.

Saturday, November 19th from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. is a mega adoption event at White Marsh Mall – Adopt Till You Drop. The event is being held in the area formerly known as Sports Authority and was temporarily a Halloween store. This event is free to attend.

The Behavior Enrichment Coordinator at BCAS, Will Webster, and the MD SPCA have been working together to share techniques for dog and cat evaluations.

BCAS is working on preparing for the opening of the west side spay/neuter clinic and starting the Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) program. Community Cats of MD used to be involved with the Baltimore County TNR program, but when Baltimore County made the decision to expand the TNR program, CCMD made the decision not to participate. CCMD website states that they are looking for a location in Baltimore County to operate from. The long range goal of the TNR program is to reduce the amount cats in the shelter. At this time, BCAS will be running the TNR program six days per week at no cost to the trapper of the cats brought in. There will be no individual specialized veterinary care for these cats. These feral/stray cats will receive sterilization, vaccination for rabies and distemper, microchip, tip of the left ear to identify the cats as having been trapped, neutered and released (TNR), flea treatment and vet exam.

Animal Control Officers on call will be contacted via phone and email by 911 personnel in the event that a citizen has found and confined a stray animal or in the event of an eviction where a landlord puts renter's things on the street and an animal is present in the home. If the ACO on duty does not respond, 911 will contact Gary Klunk and Dr. Jones. Some Commission members had asked whether police would take an animal present in a home where there is a domestic dispute and the people involved are jailed or leave the home. The answer is no. Animal Control cannot go inside and remove an animal as long as the animal is safe in the home. It is up to the animal owner/resident to make arrangements for the pet. Animals will not be left in cars if someone is arrested while in their vehicle.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are completed, under review and have one more review to go through afterward.

In reference to photographs of strays, these photos are being taken by Animal Control Officers in the field, not in the shelter. These are not professional photos. Better photos are being taken once the stray is at the shelter with regular staff. BCAS is working with the Animal Control Officers to improve the quality of the photographs. Pictures of strays are something BCAS are not required to do and other shelters don't do it. Julianne to contact Meredith Brown to possibly help with photographing tips for Animal Control Officers.

Rescue email blasts are no longer occurring. Targeted emails are more successful with the rescues. Volunteers are putting out rescue posts on Facebook.

Baltimore County is working with Foxy G, a horse rescue in Carroll County. These horses will be housed in a facility with an arena in the area of the Baltimore

County Agricultural Resource Center and Farm Park (a.k.a. the Ag Center) in Hunt Valley. These horses will be working with veterans who have post-traumatic stress disorder. They will also have some feral cats on the property.

New Liaison Committee Member

Julianne Zimmer will be joining the Liaison Committee.

**III. Announcement of Next Meeting Date and Location**

The December meeting has been canceled. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 17th at Drumcastle Government Center, 6401 York Road, on the Second Floor in the Executive Conference Room at 6:30 pm.

**IV. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.