

BALTIMORE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMISSION
October 18, 2017

The twenty-fourth regular meeting of the Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, October 18, 2017 in the Main Conference Room of the Drumcastle Government Center. This meeting was called to order at 6:41 pm. By the Chair Deborah Stone-Hess. Members in attendance were: Deborah Stone-Hess, Maryanne Bailey (by phone), Jon Christiana (by phone), Jamie DeRita Rodriguez (by phone), Joy Freedman and Julianne Zimmer.

Minutes

Minutes from the September 26, 2017 meeting were motioned and approved as submitted.

Motion

Motioned by: Joy Freeman
Second by: Julianne Zimmer
Decision: Approved

Commission Member Resignation

Lavinia Ringgold has resigned. There is no news on her replacement at this time.

New business

Commission Report Submitted

The Commission Report has been submitted to the County Council and the County Executive.

Third Quarter Statistics

Third Quarter Statistics were shared as well as the comparison of third quarter statistics of 2016 and 2017. Here are the statistics of 2017:

	Dogs	Cats
Intake	498	1097
Euthanized	40	127
Went to Rescue	140	199
Adopted	104	392

Bathroom Issue

At BCAS there are major problems with pipes and as a result bathrooms have been non-operational. On some days, the public rest room has been non-operational while the administrative bathrooms were working. On other days, all bathrooms were not working. On days when only public restroom was not working, volunteers were told that they could not use the administrative bathroom and would have to drive to a public restroom. Commission members agreed that this is insulting to volunteers and could damage the goodwill that has been built through the volunteer program.

A portable bathroom is now onsite while construction is completed on the property.

Deborah Stone has drafted a letter to send to the County Attorney to ask about the legality of refusing volunteers and the public bathroom access onsite. She has also drafted a letter to BCAS Administration, Baltimore County Health Officer and Baltimore County Administrator, expressing concerns over this issue.

Motion to send the letter:

Motion by Joy Freedman
Second by Julianne Zimmer
Motion approved.

When November 21st was mentioned as the next meeting date, Julianne and Deborah suggested moving the November meeting of the Commission to Tuesday, November 14th, so that it does not conflict with the Thanksgiving Holiday. Deborah will send emails to Commission members and scribe will check for room availability.


The summary was presented but not discussed. Please see the summary below:

Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission Liaison Committee Meeting Summary

1. We talked about the emergency preparedness issue and the fact that Joy and Maryanne want to put together a one page sheet that could be in veterinarians' offices about issues concerning BCAS and storm preparedness. The County Administrator is putting Joy in touch with Mark Hubbard who is the County Emergency Preparedness Director.
2. TNR Update – The County has performed 951 TNRs since it began its program in October of 2016. The County is still having a lot of difficulty getting people to agree to let cats back onto their property after they have been altered and vaccinated.
3. West side spay/neuter clinic – This is another area where the County continues to encounter difficulty. People on the west side seem disinterested in getting their

- pets spayed and neutered and efforts to encourage them to do so are proving unsuccessful. That includes the gift card program where people would receive a twenty dollar gift card in exchange for utilizing the clinic. The County is considering its options to determine whether the facility could be better used for other purposes, including TNR.
4. Mobile Adoption Vehicle – The new target date for getting the new vehicle is the end of November.
 5. Vehicle to Libraries – Anne Gearhart expressed interest in having the vehicle come to county libraries. The shelter will consider that, although if Saturdays are the preferred time for this and other bigger events are taking place on Saturdays (as they often do) the County wants to go where they can reach the most people. So we don't know if libraries will prove a viable option. Heidi is going to create an event calendar for the vehicle. Ann, contact her to discuss.
 6. TNR of Friendly Cats – Deborah received a message on Facebook from someone concerned about friendly cats being returned after being altered. This is indeed part of the program as there is not enough room at the shelter to take in friendly cats through the TNR program. Kitten season continues and the adoption room is consistently running full. As long as cats appear to be healthy and have a reliable food source, they will be returned to their colonies whether they are feral or friendly. This offers the greatest likelihood of a live outcome for as many cats as possible.

Announcement of Next Meeting Date and Location

November 21, 2017 at Drumcastle Government Center, 6401 York Road, 3rd floor, Main Conference Room

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion by Julianne Zimmer

Second by Joy Freeman

Motion approved.

Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.