

BALTIMORE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMISSION
March 27, 2018

The twenty-seventh regular meeting of the Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 in the Main Conference Room of the Drumcastle Government Center. This meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by the Chair Deborah Stone-Hess. Members in attendance were: Deborah Stone-Hess, Maryanne Bailey (by phone), Jon Christiana, Joy Freedman, Ann Gearhart, Roy Plummer, Janice Vincent and Julianne Zimmer.

Minutes

Minutes from the February 20, 2018 meeting were motioned and approved as submitted.

Motion

Motioned by: Joy Freedman

Second by: Janice Vincent

Decision: Approved

Update on Members

Councilman Jones has yet to assign a new person to replace Lavinia Ringgold. Councilman Kach has been notified that Jean Townsend may need to be replaced due to health issues.

Jamie DeRita-Rodriguez (an Administrative appointment to the Commission) has been replaced by Bradley Organ.

Invitations to Candidates

All of the candidates for County Executive have been invited to speak to the Commission about their views on Animal Services. Several are scheduled to attend the April meeting. Pat McDonough attended this meeting.

Mr. McDonough said he has limited knowledge on Animal Services, but he is learning. He said he is supportive of animal rights and animal welfare and that his voting record as a Delegate in Annapolis indicates that he has had a dog since he was born and currently has a rescue dog. Deborah provided some information for him about BCAS. He has no plans for change at this time, but if improvements are needed, he says he will do it. He has an open mind and is willing to learn more about the shelter and its operations. He says he has a fixed commitment, but not fixed views. His philosophy is to put people first and to get gold standard service to people. No special interest or hidden agendas. He says he would consider having a BCAS oversight commission.

Ann asked Del. McDonough if he is aware of the availability of formalized animal control officer training, he responded no, but is willing to learn. Roy asked if shelter could be open

on Sundays and Mr. McDonough advised that he would do that and would allow volunteers to work outside of the hours that the shelter is open to the public.

John Olszewski, Jim Brochin, and Vicki Almond have been invited to the next meeting in April.

Oscar Update

For the owners of Oscar, there were two charges for lying to police and three counts of neglect. The necropsy showed that Oscar died of hypothermia, and that he was malnourished and suffered from severe osteoarthritis.

Oscar's Law

After more changes were made, the law still protects dogs from under 32 degree temperature and over 90 degree temperature as well as protecting dogs from being left unattended for over 9 hours outdoors, even with a dog door present. This law, if passed, will give Animal Control Officers, under the Police Department, power to enter private property to remove an animal in danger. Animals must be brought indoors after thirty minutes of adverse weather. Monday, April 16th, is when this is voted on by the County Council.

New Police Unit

Press release...The County has announced the formation of a Police Dept. Unit dedicated to animal abuse. It is supposed to be up and running by the end of this week. This unit will consist of a police Sergeant, a police officer and three civilians.

Committee Reports

Ann and Maryanne have been working to see how other jurisdictions communicate between State's Attorney's offices, Animal Services and the Police Departments. Ann advised that we need to have necropsy represented as a line item in the budget. There need to be more funds for investigations into animal cruelty and abuse.

Deb would like Ann to find out more about Baltimore City's communication between its State's Attorney's Office, Police Department and Animal Services. Deb would like to see if there is anything that Baltimore City is doing that could be recommended for Baltimore County.

Update on Liaison Committee Meetings

Don Mohler called Deb today. He told her the County Executive met with the County Administrator about attending the Commission meeting tonight, but it is budget time. Don Mohler said Fred Homan and Gary Klunk will attend April's meeting. There have been three months without proper communication.

Next Commission Annual Report

This is due in July. At next meeting, duties will be doled out. This year's report will focus on the need for transparency.

Announcement of Next Meeting Date and Location

April 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Drumcastle Government Center, 6401 York Road, 3rd floor, Main Conference Room

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion by: Joy Freedman

Second by: Julianne Zimmer

Motion approved.

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.