

BALTIMORE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMISSION
September 20, 2018

The thirty-second regular meeting of the Baltimore County Animal Services Advisory Commission was held on Thursday, September 20, 2018 in the Main Conference Room of the Drumcastle Government Center. This meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by the Chair Deborah Stone-Hess. Members in attendance were: Deborah Stone-Hess, Gerald Brooks, Jon Christiana, Joy Freedman, Roy Plummer, Larry Townsend, Janice Vincent(phone) and Julianne Zimmer.

Minutes

Minutes from the July 17, 2018 meeting were motioned and approved as submitted.

Motion

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

New Business

Update on Members – Major Robert McCullough

He has been appointed by Councilman Julian Jones. We are now at full capacity.

Meeting with Baltimore County Executive and Subsequent Meeting with Baltimore County Chief of Staff

Julianne, Joy, and Deb met with some members of the county council, then met with the County Executive, his Chief of Staff and Councilwoman Cathy Bevins. The Chief of Staff will be working with BCASAC. The last meeting was approximately 5 weeks ago. Have not heard more on this subject.

In reference to the police department responding to a dog tied to a vehicle, the police went out a second time and spoke with resident who said the dogs are not his.

On July 1st there were additional changes and now most animal control duties have been reassigned to the Animal Abuse/Cruelty Team.

A female agreed to feed cats for a neighbor, who found that it was a hoarding situation and animal services said that she would have to bring the cats in on her own. (See “Guest Nina McFadden,” below.)

Issue about a lack of transparency on part of the shelter

Jen, a volunteer at BCAS, spoke about an 8-year-old dogs that was in the shelter. This dog was very quiet and not very responsive. He had no reaction to lawn mowers or

other dogs, yet he appeared to be scared when placed in cuddle shuttle. When Jen asked BCAS staff about this dog the next day, they told her that this dog was no longer with us. His picture came down from the Adoption Site the next day. Jen assumed that he had been adopted, but there was no photo or consent form. Then Jen heard through another source that this dog had been euthanized, stating that he had bit a member of the public at an event after he got loose. Another volunteer present advised that this dog was definitely euthanized. A second incident was discussed about a dog named Suebee, who was euthanized about a year ago after a similar incident. A third incident was also discussed about a cat that was killed in the radiator of the Cuddle Shuttle while going after her kitten. The same staff member of the shelter was involved in all three incidents.

Julianne Zimmer said that she is interested in incidents such as these.

Joy asked the five volunteers present, what does red, yellow and green tags on the dogs mean? Jen, a current shelter volunteer, responded that a new volunteer is given first green dot dogs, which are easier to handle. After 20 hours of walking green dot dogs, volunteers may elevate to a yellow dot dog. Volunteers are not abiding by this system. This is causing dogs to die. There is no supervisor supervising the volunteers. No one is overseeing the volunteers.

Annual Report

Motion to accept: Joy Freedman
Second to accept: Maryanne Bailey

Deb advised there is no need to read the whole report out loud.

Motion to amend: Gerald Brooks

On page 5, “Based on her conclusions,” to redact that page since there are facts not included and all facts should be submitted. The case is still under investigation and we should wait until this case is closed. Julianne stated, even though we do not have all of the facts, these statements, even though incomplete, are important to set the basis for the rest of the report. Deb stated, the big part of the issue is that when asking questions, BCASAC was cut off from communication, then the County made a statement based on lack of facts. Gerald would like to have all of the facts before presenting. Add a line, “At this time we do not have all of the facts in the case.”

Second to amend: voted, no second
Motion not accepted and amendment not made.

Motion to amend: Deb

On page 7, wording corrected to read, “in his home he said he had 16 cats. She found the home in filthy conditions.”

Second to amend: Larry Townsend
Motion accepted and change made.

Motion to amend: Deb

On page 11, “tra and requested assistance pped,” to be changed to “trapped.”

Second to amend: Roy

Motion accepted and change made.

Motion to amend: Deb

On page 16, “The Chief of Animal Services in in charges of BCAS,” to be changed to “The person in charge of BCAS is the Chief of Animal Services.”

Second to amend: Maryann Bailey

Motion accepted and change made.

Motion to amend: Deb

On page 16, Motion is to change names to titles

Second to amend: Gerald Brooks

Motion accepted and changes made.

Motion to amend: Deb

On page 17, “There are actually two people in charge at BCAS, the Chief and the Management Analyst,” to be changed to “There are actually two people in charge at BCAS, the Chief of Animal Services and the Management Analyst, the person who would appear to be in charge of Animal Control.”

Second to amend: Maryann Bailey

Motion accepted and change made.

Motion to amend: Deb

On page 17, “the salary for that position is \$108,801,” to be changed to “the salary for that position is \$106,801.”

Second to amend: Julianne Zimmer

Motion accepted and change made.

Motion to amend: Deb

On page 17, “If the Chief’s salary is that of the Senior Administrative Officer to the CAO at \$187,662, and if the Management Analyst is a Management Analyst IV, the two people running BCAS cumulatively are making almost \$300,000 annually in FY 2019,” to be changed to “If the Chief of Animal Service’s salary is that of the Senior Administrative Officer to the CAO at \$187,662, and if the Management Analyst is a Management Analyst IV, it appears the two people running BCAS cumulatively are making almost \$300,000 annually in FY2019.

Second to amend: Janice Vincent

Motion accepted and change made.

Motion to amend: Deb

On page 17, “As for other salaries, there are five veterinarian positions earning a total of \$724,632. That would mean each veterinarian is earning almost \$145,000 a year in FY2019,” to be changed to “As for other salaries, there are five veterinarian positions earning a total of \$741,289. That would mean each veterinarian is earling an average of \$148,257.80 a year in FY2019. “

Second to amend: Janice Vincent

Motion accepted and change made.

Motion to accept minutes with corrections: Julianne Zimmer

Second: Joy Freedman

Abstain: Jon Christiana (via e-mail), Gerald Brooks (present)

Ann is on vacation without email access.

There was discussion about salaries and lack of transparency as to who holds that actual title.

Guest Nina McFadden

Nina was involved in the incident involving her neighbor’s cats. On August 7th, she realized that she had not seen her elderly neighbor in three days. She called the police to check on him and the fire department came and busted down door. The neighbor, Bob, was there with his leg swollen from his hip to his foot. Bob has 16 indoor cats. It took 8 days to convince him to go to the hospital where he was diagnosed with three blood clots in his leg. Nina called animal control and they said for her to pack up all 16 cats and bring them to the shelter. On August 24, she called 911 who advised that because she is feeding these cats, they are not in harm’s way. Animal Services said they couldn’t help. Bob’s house had feces from top floor to basement, could smell urine from the outside, and the carpet is stained. Nina caught bronchitis from being in the house trying to clean up the feces. She was unable to get advisement for this situation. Bob is okay and in the hospital. She got all feces cleaned up and is now trying to catch cats. She called Animal Services on 8/26 and was told by Brianna and Helena to call 911. Police advised that they cannot enter the premises. Nina spoke to Animal Control Officer Fritz on 8/26, which is a Sunday, who advised for Nina to call Animal Control in the morning and they will be able to send someone out. There were no referrals to Rescue Well from Animal Services. Helena at Animal Services said that Animal Services does not handle neglect or abuse cases. Nina called 911 yet again. The Animal Abuse Team responded. They had to get masks due to the odor. The Animal Abuse Team entered the home and retrieved 5 cats out of the house. Afterward, Animal Control came and set 10 cat traps on the lawn. Christine Hamburg from Rescue Well, said that she can’t go in without a warrant and there are not grounds for a warrant. Christine came due to a post on Facebook. Nina got a signed affidavit and video from the owner.

The home owner had to sign another paper for Christine to be able to feed the cats. The owner said there are 16 cats inside and 14 feral cats that needed to be TNRd, food and water. Nina has to set traps in the morning. There are 11 cats still inside the house. Nothing has been done about the outside cats either.

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Susan Reeve is helping them to trap, according to a volunteer from the shelter. Joy advised that since this is clearly a hoarding situation, this a criminal matter. Hoarding is a mental illness, the owner is 70 years old and overwhelmed.

Deb advised that these are citizens turning to our county animal control division to do their job.

Joy advised that this is an example about mismanagement of funds and when funds are mismanaged, there is a citizen in harm's way. Serious concern by Deb

Nina was told if she trapped the cats, Animal Services will not pick them up, this is in Woodlawn, and she would have to take the animals to the shelter. Deb asked her to speak with the County Council on Oct 1. Deb is asking as many commission members to attend as possible. Larry suggested to call, reporter, Jane Miller. Julianne, pointed out that animal control is being overseen by the health department, leaving a hazard for citizens to rectify.

Policies have been drawn up for Animal Abuse Team and Animal Control and Gerald advised that these policies have been amended.

Gerald advised that a police report was completed and a copy can be requested.

Gerald advised that we need to have the facts. Nina said owner told her there are 16 cats, but she has not seen 16 cats.

Announcement of Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at Drumcastle Government Center, 6401 York Road, 3rd floor, Main Conference Room at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion by: Marianne Bailey

Second by: Larry Townsend

Motion approved.

Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.