

Hampton Animal Control Advisory Committee

-Lawson Conference Room-

January 19, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Voting Members Present: John “Andy” Anderson, Pamela Christiansen, Elizabeth Peabody, Kristin Schultz
Staff Present: Annette Oakley, Rebecca Spurrier (City Manager’s Office), Olivia Alexander (City Attorney’s Office)
Guest: Deborah North (Interpreter)

Welcome

Chairman Anderson welcomed everyone at 5:35 p.m. It was determined that a quorum was present. Chairman Anderson welcomed new member Kristin Schultz.

Election of Officers

Ms. Alexander explained the officer positions, according to the bylaws, are Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. The Committee can nominate officers as a slate or individually, as well as nominate members who are not present. Chairman Anderson called for nominations.

ACTION: Pamela Christiansen made a motion to nominate a slate of officers; Andy Anderson as Chairman, Sharon Bilyj as Vice Chair, and Victoria Wineland as Secretary. Elizabeth Peabody seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Review Agenda & Approval of Minutes

Chairman Anderson stated the draft minutes from the July 21, 2022 meeting were distributed for review and if there are no changes, called for a motion to approve. (Note: There was no quorum/official minutes for the September or November meetings).

ACTION: Kristin Schultz made the motion to approve the July minutes as written and Elizabeth Peabody seconded. A vote was taken and motion passed.

City Manager’s Report

Steven Bond was not in attendance, due to another meeting. Rebecca Spurrier stated she talked with Mr. Bond about Paws, Claws and Tails, and in regards to the preferred dates identified at the last meeting, there are conflicts, which are two major City-sponsored events. She deferred the remaining items to later on the agenda, under the Paws, Claws and Tails discussion.

Animal Control Report

Ms. Alexander reported for Ms. Taylor, who was unable to attend. She stated that Animal Control is now close to being fully staffed. She also reported they are hosting an Animal Control Academy next month, which is required for Animal Control officers across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Typically, the closest one has been in Virginia Beach, but they are not doing it this spring, therefore, Hampton has offered to host. She mentioned Mike Falls is heading up the Academy. The sessions will be a two-week training, covering multiple topics, including court/code related matters; this will include a CPS Animal Control overlap session for the officers. She

explained that sometimes there are connections between animal abuse and child/family abuse. Ms. Alexander also mentioned they have not had too many court cases, but the ones they have, are more complicated. Chairman Anderson inquired about the motor pool. Ms. Alexander replied mostly fine; a couple trucks have been in the shop for service, but none are out of commission.

Current Issues/Trends

Ms. Peabody inquired about cold weather cases. Ms. Alexander tried one case last week and a handful of impoundments, but no new cases. She feels that summers seem to be worse, with dogs left in cars, but in the winter, she does not see as many cases.

Ms. Peabody inquired about laws regarding the type of structure a dog needs in order to stay outside. Ms. Alexander stated yes, it is stated in both the City and State code, that an animal has to be in an enclosed structure and in the winter provided with straw on the ground (sleeping area).

Ms. Christensen inquired about wire fencing in a kennel area and if an igloo-like structure is sufficient? Ms. Alexander responded yes, but would also need straw in the igloo in wintertime. Ms. Christiansen inquired about the criteria for the summer. Ms. Alexander responded they have to have some kind of coverage, to protect them from the elements. She referred to City code, Chapter 5, Section 2, under adequate space/adequate shelter definition, which states being appropriate for size, breed, etc. She also mentioned the enclosure has to be secure, where the animal's paws do not slip through the bottom.

Ms. Peabody inquired about insulation requirements during the summer. Ms. Alexander stated she is not sure, she recommends if someone has concerns, please call Animal Control or 311 Call Center for a welfare check on the animal. She mentioned citizens can get the 311 App on their phone and can put in a request/concern report, as well as include pictures – the App is very user-friendly.

Old Business

Bylaws: There was no super majority present to take action on the bylaws change.

Paws, Claws & Tails:

Ms. Spurrier stated there was much enthusiasm at the last meeting on various items, but in regards to the potential locations discussed, it would require permits that would need to be submitted ninety days out. Therefore, if planning an event in April, we are pushing the deadline. She also mentioned to plan a special event requires many items; such as meeting and reviewing plans with the Special Events team, may require public safety assistance (depending on number expected), portable restrooms, etc., which costs money. The committee does not have a budget, therefore, she reminded the committee of previous discussions of scaling down the event, as there are many logistics involved. Ms. Spurrier recommended a smaller, quaint event, held indoors for this year and possibly plan a larger event next year. Chairman Anderson stated he is more comfortable with an indoor event and mentioned Northhampton Community Center, where the event was held last time. Ms. Spurrier stated if we have a location and general idea of how many people would be there, she can talk to PRLS and let them know. Chairman Anderson also suggested Sandy Bottom Nature Park (SBNP), which has indoor and outdoor space (patio). After further discussion, committee members agreed to move forward with holding the event at SBNP in the early fall timeframe.

There was additional discussion on the exhibitor criteria (non-profit, provides services to Hampton residents, licensed organization/permitted, and provide animal-related services). Ms. Spurrier suggested an online form for exhibitors. After some discussion, she and Ms. Christensen volunteered to work on a Google form. Ms. Alexander will then include the criteria once the draft form is created.

Dangerous Dog Code Amendment:

Ms. Alexander stated this item was discussed prior, but no quorum was present for action. She referred to the redlined code that she had emailed the committee for review. She stated the State code is standard – so our code has to meet the State standard. The amendments bring City code up to State codes. There are many edits to the document, but most changes are reorganized and put into categories to make it easier to follow.

ACTION: After some discussion, Chairman Anderson called for a motion to approve the redlined code amendments. Elizabeth Peabody made the motion and Pamela Christiansen seconded. A vote was taken and motion passed.

Ms. Alexander stated she will take the item to City Council when their agenda is not so full.

New Business

No Report

Public Comment

No one from the public was in attendance.

Other Business

No Report

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.