

TASK FORCE FOR THE SACC MEETING MINUTES-NOVEMBER 6, 2014

MEETING START: 6:35 PM

MEETING END: 8:35 PM

PRESENT FROM TASK FORCE: EILEEN HEAPHY, STEVEN ZIEDE, MARY ANN KLEINSCHMITT & ANNIE TAYLOR. ABSENT: ART LAYTON, BRENDON LEYDON & THERESA GEARY

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION: KATHERINE EMMETT, MARTIN LEVINE, SPD LT. NICHOLAS MONTAGNESE & ACO TILFORD COBB

EILEEN HEAPHY ADDRESSED LETTER PUBLISHED IN ADVOCATE, WHICH ACCUSED THE TASK FORCE OF REMOVING THE WORD "CARE" FROM THE ACC. SHE EXPLAINED THAT WAS NOT THE CASE. THE ANIMAL SHELTER HAS ALWAYS BE LEGALLY NAMED THE ANIMAL CONTROL CENTER BUT THE RESCUE GROUP WHICH WAS RUNNING THE WEBSITE FOR THE ACC HAD LABELED THE "ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL CENTER." SHE SAID THE NAME CHANGE COULD BE ADDRESSED BY ORDINANCE AND IN RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAYOR.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. APPROVAL OF ADOPTION DOCUMENTS. THERE WAS DISCUSSION RE: LANGUAGE THAT REQUIRED PROSPECTIVE PET ADOPTERS WHO ARE RENTERS TO GET A CERTIFIED LETTER FROM THEIR LANDLORD THAT THEY CAN HAVE A PET AND PROOF OF THE LANDLORD'S OWNERSHIP OF THE PROPERTY. HEAPHY REQUESTED THAT THESE CONDITIONS COULD BE ONEROUS AND ASKED THAT THE CONDITION BE SIMPLIFIED. THEREFORE THE ADOPTION DOCUMENTS WERE APPROVED, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT CHANGES CAN BE MADE GOING FORWARD TO IMPROVE DOCUMENTATION.

2, REVIEW OF POTENTIAL SITES FOR NEW SHELTER. TASK FORCE MEMBER ANNIE TAYLOR DISCUSSED CRITERIA USED AND SIX SITES VISITED AS WELL AS TOP TWO THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE THOUGHT BEST, COURTLAND AVENUE (LINES AND SIGNS) AND 260 LONG RIDGE RD IF THE CITY DECIDES TO PUT THE POLICE AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES TOGETHER THERE. ALL TASK FORCE MEMBERS WERE INVITED TO VISIT IDENTIFIED SITES AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK.

3. HEAPHY REVIEWED HIGHLIGHTS OF CIVILITY SERIES TALK BY WAYNE PACELLE, PRESIDENT, US HUMANE SOCIETY, WHICH FOCUSES ON CHANGING LEGISLATION TO PROTECT ANIMALS AT THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL. THE USHS IS ALSO ACTIVE IN PROTECTING ANIMALS SUCH AS COWS, PIGS, AND CHICKENS WHO ARE PROCESSED BY "MANUFACTURING FARMS."

4. TIFLORD COBB, ACTING AC MANAGER, REVIEWED CURRENT SACC STATS: 139 VISITORS IN OCTOBER; 19 ADOPTIONS; 14 REDEEMED BY OWNERS; RESPONDED TO 119 COMPLAINTS; 4 DOG BITES; INITIATED MICROCHIP PROGRAM; 11 VOLUNTEERS APPROVED, MORE BEING INTERVIEWED; STILL WORKING OUT WEEKEND HOURS, FIRST WEEKEND COULD BE AS EARLY AS 11/8.

DISCUSSION ENSUED, LED BY STEVE ZEIDE, RE BETTER USE OF VOLUNTEERS AND THE PROBLEMS OF LEAVING THE ANIMALS IN CAGES FROM 4 PM TO 7 AM NEXT MORNING. THIS IS A PROBLEM NOT ONLY FOR SANITARY REASONS BUT ALSO FOR SOCIALIZATION. THE ACC SHOULD CONSIDER STAGGERING HOURS FOR MORE COVERAGE AND BRING IN MORE VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE READY TO HELP. MARY ANN KLEINSCHMITT COMMENTED THE 8 AM TO 4 PM ARE THE STANDARD WORKING HOURS FOR ACCS AROUND THE STATE. HEAPHY ALSO COMMENTED THAT THERE MAY BE UNION CONTRACT ISSUES. COBB SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK ON THIS ISSUE.

5. COMMENTS BY RESCUE GROUPS RE: ORDINANCE:

ADOPT-A-DOG:

- CHANGE DOG WARDEN TO ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
- LIVE POULTRY NEEDS TO BE 50 FT FROM WATER SOURCE
- GIVE ACC JURISDICTION OVER STABLE/PEN/YARDS, CAN CALL PD FOR BACK UP IF NEEDED
- ROOSTERS, AC WITH HEALTH DEPT BACK UP
- BE SURE TO INCLUDE DOG PARK LANGUAGE
- DEAD BODIES, SHORTEN 12 HR TIME
- NEED TO INCLUDE CATS
- FINES SHOULD BE HIGHER (PER STATE STATUTE \$250 HIGHEST FINE)
- ANIMALS SHOULD NOT BE LEFT TIED IN FRONT OF STORES
- NO ANIMALS LOOSE IN BACK OF PICK UP

FRIENDS OF FELINES:

- TNR; TRAP, NEUTER & RETURN
- ENFORCE RABIES VACCINE LAWS FOR CATS
- OUTREACH PROGRAMS & EDUCATION
- MAKE CAT ABANDONMENT ILLEGAL
- PROMOTE ASSISTANCE FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES
- SEE CITY OF BALTIMORE ORDINANCE FOR IDEAS
- CONSIDER LICENSING OF CATS

PITTER PATTER:

- ADD VACCINATION TO TRAP NEUTER RETURN FORMULA

- CONSIDER INCORPORATING SURGERY SUITE IN NEW FACILITY
- STOP ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CATS
- FERAL CATS ARE PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE BECAUSE SPREAD RABIES
- NEED TO COORDINATE WITH ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO TNR
- IF YOU FEED CATS THEY ARE YOURS AND YOU MUST COMPLY WITH LAWS
- NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS

OPIN:

- WANTS ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE RE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND DEFINE WHAT THAT MEANS
- AFTER 7 DAY HOLDING PERIOD ALL ANIMALS AT SACC SHOULD BE VACCINATED AGAINST PARVO, RABIES
- USE STATE PROGRAM THAT FUNDS \$150 TO SPAY NEUTER VACCINATE
- ESTABLISH SURRENDER FEE
- CLEARLY DEFINE AGE LIMITS FOR ADOPTABLE ANIMALS (ILLEGAL AT LESS THAN 8 WEEKS)
- REQUIRE NOTIFYING AC WITHIN 24 HR OF FINDING LOST PETS
- LAWS RE WILD & EXOTIC ANIMALS (INCLUDE STATE LANGUAGE)
- ALLOW CATS AND OTHER SMALL ANIMALS TO BE SHELTERED AT SACC
- CREATE REGISTRY OF RESCUE GROUPS

DISCUSSION RE: DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POLICY AND ORDINANCE. ORDINANCES ARE LAWS CREATED AS ENFORCEMENT TOOL WHILE POLICIES CAN BE MORE EASILY UPDATED AND CHANGED WITHOUT THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES HAVING TO VOTE. THERE WAS ALSO DISCUSSION OF ESTABLISHING A STAMFORD COALITION OF ANIMAL WELFARE OFFICIALS, VETERINARIANS AND RESCUE GROUPS, PER ASILOMAR ACCORDS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ACTIONS AND POLICIES AND SHARE INFORMATION ON ANIMAL CONDITIONS IN THE CITY.

STAR:

- NEED POLICY AROUND FUND RAISING, PARTICULARLY WITH 501C3 ESTABLISHED TO BENEFIT SACC
- DEFINE DOG BITE; BREAK IN SKIN, TORN CLOTHING, ETC
- WARNINGS SIGNS RE VICIOUS DOGS MUST BE VISIBLE FOR THE ENTIRE TIME ANIMAL RESIDES AT RESIDENCE
- POLICY RE FOSTERING (AGAINST STATE LAW FOR ACCS TO DO, MUST BE DONE BY RESCUE GROUPS AFTER THE ACO DETERMINES THE PET IS ADOPTABLE AND RELEASES IT TO AN ORGANIZATION FOR FOSTERING AND ADOPTION).

RABBIT ALLIANCE FO CT:

- GOAL TO KEEP RABBITS OUT OF SHELTERS
- PROVIDE INSTRUCTION TO STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS RE HANDLING RABBITS
- RABBITS 3RD MOST POPULAR PET
- FEW LAWS OR ORDINANCES ADDRESS RABBITS
- WILL FORWARD LANGUAGE
- WOULD LIKE TO BAN SALE OF RABBITS

NEW BUSINESS: TAYLOR CIRCULATED A DRAFT MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT FOR REVIEW AT THE NEXT MEETING.