

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL OVERSIGHT (ACCO) COMMISSION

July 30, 2013

7:00PM

MEETING MINUTES

ACCO MEMBERS PRESENT: Lyn Yelton, Chair; Laura Hudson, Ricky Lewis, Veronica Dougherty, Kerrienne Hanlin

County Staff: Al Wein, Director of Administration

ACCA representatives: Jenn Callahan, Crystal Litteral, Etal

Chairperson Yelton called meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Recording secretary, Ricky Lewis read minutes from May 8, 2013 meeting. Motion was made by Veronica Dougherty to amend minutes to reflect Lyn Yelton making motion to elect Veronica Dougherty as Vice Chair; seconded by Ricky Lewis and motion passed unanimously. Minutes were approved.

Chairperson Yelton suggested that next two quarterly meetings be scheduled for October 22, 2013 and January 21, 2014 at 7:00pm in Perryville Room. The Commission agreed by unanimous consent.

The next agenda item centered on discussion relating to the visibility of A Buddy For Life (ABFL) in the County. Jenn Callahan and Crystal Litteral discussed upcoming events, including meet and greets, events to increase public awareness, signage, brochures, etc. The Commission emphasized that ABFL needs to improve visibility. Jenn Callahan said that she would work with County to investigate signage opportunities and the regulations that they would have to navigate through. They also discussed recent rabies clinics offerings and their efforts in selling dog licenses. Discussion ensued regarding improvements to the ABFL website and linkage to County's website. Al Wein indicated that efforts were underway to provide a link from the County's website to ABFL's website.

Discussion of the Quarterly reports between Commission members and ABFL followed. Mr. Wein was asked to obtain license sale information from the Finance Department for 2012.

Chairman Yelton led a discussion on the Powers and Duties of the ACCO Commission. She will be asking for someone to work with them from ABFL in certain areas, including contract reviews, complaint process, review of regulations, fees and license requirements. The Commission members will be asked to investigate other Counties rules and regulations for comparison purposes.

Mr. Wein reviewed complaints that have been received in his office and ABFL responded as to their actions taken.

General discussion-Chairperson Yelton stated that she has received concerns from two Commercial Kennels about the licensing requirements and the requirement of having animals seen by vet once every 6 months. Also, concerns have been expressed relating to exercise plans and they are asking for guidance. Other comments during general discussion were as follows:

- Need to review inspection fees, fines, etc.;
- Chair person Yelton suggested that County needs to address feral cats and she indicated that Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties license cats.

Chairperson Yelton provided an opportunity for public comment. The following persons spoke:

- Donna Caudill-Inquired as to how long they keep animals and asked for clarification of the definition of a low-kill facility.
- Valerie Refner-Expressed concerns about licensing requirements for catteries;
- Shawn Soldon (Starlight Kennel)- Expressed concerns regarding kennel license fees and regulations; Sees new laws targeting breeders;
- Alan McCarthy-Asked ABFL what the role of the Animal Care and Control Authority is; and
- Bill De Freitas-Asked if owners could retrieve dog after 8 day period. Also inquired how long it took ABFL to get photo of stray dogs on their website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM

  
Ricky Lewis, Recording Secretary