



Animal Services Advisory Board Meeting

May 23, 2016

Minutes

John Manning
District One

Cecil L Pendergrass
District Two

Larry Kiker
District Three

Brian Hamman
District Four

Frank Mann
District Five

Roger Desjarlais
County Manager

Richard Wm. Wesch
County Attorney

Donna Marie Collins
Hearing Examiner

Present: Board Members, Charlene Campbell, Larry Scott, Theresa Ink; Lee County Domestic Animal Services' staff, Mack Young, Karen Fordiani; Ashley Fesperman, Lee County Attorney's Office

Absent: Heather Hawk, Randy Hodges, William Townsend, Jennifer Galloway,

Chairman Charlene Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. She announced that a regular meeting could not be held nor could the May 28 2016 minutes be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

Ashley Fesperman, Lee County Attorney's Office, gave a presentation on the State of Florida's Sunshine Law which provides for citizens' rights to a transparent government. For advisory boards such as this it requires that the meetings are open to the public, that notice be given and minutes recorded. Board members are not allowed to discuss with other board members anything that is foreseen to be discussed at a regular board meeting. To do so is a violation of the Sunshine Law. Conversations include those which take place in person as well as written communications such as, but not limited to, text messages, emails and social media. It is also a violation for board members to use a third party to communicate. Board members must abstain from voting on issues where their employer, relatives and business associates are involved or if they or their employer, relatives and business associates would benefit or gain from that vote.

As new and old business could not be discussed without a quorum, the meeting was opened to public comment.

The first commenter addressed several issues. The first was to request a report on the shelter veterinarian status. Mack Young reported that Dr. James Shewmaker has left and Dr. Nicole Ferguson, Animal Services former veterinarian, is filling in part-time to assist Dr. Christopher Taylor, the current full-time staff veterinarian, until a second veterinarian is hired. The second question was whether TNR surgery appointments will increase when two experienced full-time veterinarians are on staff? Ashley Fesperman responded that Mack Young is only a liaison to the board. Answers to these questions can come from the board in future meetings but this portion of the meeting is for public comment, not discussion. The third question requested a definition of abandoned animals and their outcome. Ashley Fesperman responded that those definitions are in the County's Ordinance and the board may discuss and respond at the next meeting. The last question was whether there are any restrictions for feral cats since this is no longer in the ordinance?

The next commenter made a complaint about the ear tipping of feral cats sterilized through the TNR program and the amount of the ear that is removed from the cats.

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The next public comment involved the rights of colony caretakers to keep cat colonies intact when threatened by construction and development.

The final comment was from a colony caretaker that reported she is harassed by Lee County Deputies that question her about her colony. She suggested that the deputies be educated on the TNR program.

The next meeting will be held July 25, 2016 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.