

Putnam County Animal Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

The Putnam County Animal Control Advisory Board held a meeting on Wednesday, **November 16th, 2011**, at the Poole Recreation Center, 140 Recreation Road, Eatonton, Georgia.

Present: Joan Parker

Gloria Fasnacht

Sylvia Dixon

Christine Tillman

3rd District Commissioner Alan Foster

Call to Order: Chairperson Joan Parker called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

No public comment was presented.

Gloria Fasnacht informed members at the start of the discussion that the meeting was being recorded to insure minutes' accuracy.

Approval of Agenda and last meeting minutes: Sylvia Dixon made the motion for approval of the agenda for this meeting and Gloria Fasnacht seconded it. All other members approved accordingly; thus, this meeting's agenda was approved as written.

Sylvia Dixon made the motion to approve the last two meetings' minutes. Gloria Fasnacht seconded the approval of June 7th meeting minutes and it was approved.

Before the September 14th meeting minutes could be approved, Christine Tillman raised the point that at the item **Initial discussion of strategies to curb unwanted pet population**, the 2nd paragraph in the 2nd page denotes an opinion about Christine Tillman's answer to Gloria Fasnacht's request for PCAC information. Christine Tillman's also requested that a comment from Gloria Fasnacht mentioning FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) be added to the minutes, since such comment had been made during that meeting.

Gloria Fasnacht answered that the "she seemed doubtful" entry correctly described Christine Tillman's answer to her request for information from the Animal Control Department; the comment made about the use of FOIA in cases when information was not forthcoming was left out of the minute due to the need for brevity. Such recourse, Gloria Fasnacht added, is only used when an adverse relationship exist between the parts.

A discussion ensued by all attendees on ways information can be passed between local government entities. Gloria agreed that the above FOIA comment should be part of these minutes.

The September minutes stand thus amended by the above entry.

The November meeting started with Commissioner Alan Foster's comment that the best way to curb the unwanted pet population is to educate kids early on the need to have their pets spayed/neutered. All agreed that this education is needed but that it should be age appropriate.

Follow-up on the communication between PCACAB and the County's Management

Commissioner Foster told the board that he believes that the PCACAB should have access to whatever information it needs to make "intelligent suggestions as to the management of the county AC program" but that such suggestions should be channeled through the county management in the person of Mr. Van Haute who then would contact the AC Director, Christine Tillman. Sylvia Dixon commented on the difficulty of being heard.

Commissioner Foster continued: "You have our attention; your efforts are not just shuffled on deck and the County Manager has been advised that there is support to recognize your work and to consider it in meaningful ways. You are not wasting your time. We may not be able to agree on everything you want and the Director has input as how the department is run – and it's all a matter of cooperation, but as long as there is an Advisory Board you deserve the respect that comes with operating on this board".

He mentioned as an example the e-mail that Mr. Van Haute sent to Gloria Fasnacht answering PCACAB suggested changes to the AC renovation plan. Gloria Fasnacht said she had not received such e-mail. Christine Tillman offered to e-mail her a copy.

Discussion on PCACAB's involvement with the shelter renovation plan

Joan Parker referred to Mr. Van Haute's above mentioned e-mail where he asks the PCACAB members to present cost estimates/bids for the changes suggested by this board.

Commissioner Foster informed this board that the Board of Commissioners will decide the expenditures based on the recommendations of the AC Director and the PCACAB to the County Manager.

Gloria Fasnacht asked Christine Tillman if there was a plan to purchase a security safe as part of the AC renovation to house the euthanasia medicine now kept somewhere else. Mrs. Tillman said it was not in the plan and that the requirements were that a safe to house such meds be of at least 750 lb in a room with special hinges and that other requirements and inspections would be necessary. Gloria Fasnacht mentioned she would check the requirements on the Department of Agriculture website and the cost to implement such change.

Shelter volunteers

Gloria Fasnacht asked Christine Tillman about the Volunteer's Liability Release Form brought up by Mr. Van Haute in his e-mail answering PCACAB's concern about the lack of PCAC volunteers. Mrs. Tillman said she contacted the County's Attorney, Mr. Daniel, about writing a release form. She said Mr. Daniel is very busy now with personnel policies at the moment but that he will be back to her on this subject.

Mrs. Fasnacht brought up the fact that the work of volunteers is used all over the country in animal shelters including animal control facilities and that perhaps Putnam county was being too cautious. Commissioner Foster suggested that PCACAB get release forms from neighboring counties and submit them as example to the county manager.

Adjournment: Joan Parker adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Gloria Fasnacht
Secretary – Member-at-Large