

Putnam County Animal Control Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The Putnam County Animal Control Advisory Board held a meeting on Tuesday, **January 24th, 2012**, at the Poole Recreation Center, 140 Recreation Road, Eatonton, Georgia.

Present: Joan Parker
Gloria Fasnacht
Sheri Johnson
Sylvia Dixon
Amy Manville-Lintz
Christine Tillman

Call to Order: Chairperson Joan Parker called the meeting to order at 6:42 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 accuracy of the meeting minutes.

Approval of Agenda and last meeting minutes:

Sylvia Dixon made the motion for approval of the agenda for this meeting and Sheri Johnson seconded it. All other members approved accordingly, thus, this meeting's agenda was approved as written.

Gloria Fasnacht made the motion to approve the last two meetings' minutes. Sylvia Dixon seconded the approval of the November 16th meeting minutes and it was approved.

Follow-up on the September 2011 Board's letter to the County Management and subsequent e-mail dated November 1st, 2011 from the County Manager to this board concerning the Animal Control renovation plan:

Joan Parker asked board members to present cost information of suggested items for the renovation plan. The first item discussed was the need to add indoor/outdoor kennels. Photos from Morgan County shelter's guillotine doors, outside runs, dog washing basins, as well as photos of other shelters. Photos from Oconee County Animal guillotine doors and their sound barrier wall would be provided soon.

Christine Tillman added that guillotine doors were already in the plans to be used in the middle of the new dog addition, between the two sided kennels. She explained the reason for the guillotine opening kennel to kennel was to facilitate cleaning and protection for officers from dangerous dogs.

Sheri Johnson pointed out that we were referring to guillotine doors to be used for indoor/outdoor kennels, so animals could go outside on their own. She also wanted to know why not keep the old kennel for quarantine and have the new kennels built for adoption so they could easily be built with indoor/outdoor runs.

After a long discussion by all members about cost, necessity, and the feasibility or not of retrofitting the old dog kennels so such guillotine doors and outside kennels could be installed, Christine told members “I don’t want outside runs – period” to which Sheri Johnson asked why, since all that she read about shelters recommended them. Christine mentioned cost, noise and safety as the reasons. She continued “I just don’t see the need” because the old kennel would house adoptable dogs already spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and they could be taken outside to play by volunteers.

Gloria Fasnacht brought up that PCAC does not have a volunteer program now. To that end, she promised to provide the county management with examples of liability waiver letters from other counties so a volunteer program can be started in the renovated facility.

Other items discussed were improvement needed in the water hoses to the dog washing tub as it is now; the possible addition of removable steps so large dogs can be led safely into the washing tub; the cost of an automatic water drip system for the dog kennels; a dishwasher for bowl cleaning; 10x10 chain link dog runs outside instead of indoor/outdoor kennels; and a puppy vs. kittens separate areas which is not possible even after the renovation.

Joan Parker asked if the shelter renovation plan included changes to accommodate the euthanasia medicine on its site, to which Christine Tillman added that as it is now the shelter only needs re-certification by the Department of Agriculture and that re-certification is in progress.

Gloria Fasnacht asked if the officer performing euthanasia is certified and Christine Tillman answered “yes”.

When asked what she most needed, Christine Tillman answered “space”. The amount of \$100,000.00 allocated for the renovation was argued by board members as not being enough even for the plan as it is now and that this renovation will not satisfy the growth of the county. The board asked Christine Tillman several questions about the plan: she said it was drawn 1 ½ years ago, priced then and that it has been sent to the County Manager already. She could not provide a timeline for the start of the renovation. She added “I’m good with the plan as it is – it is workable”.

Joan Parker commented that it would be better to start anew and board members agreed. Companies that design and build public shelters can be contracted for as little as 70-80 dollars/sq. foot if the county provides workers to build it.

Adjournment: Joan Parker adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:47 p.m.

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