

Putnam County Animal Control Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The Putnam County Animal Control Advisory Board held a meeting on Wednesday, **March 21st, 2012**, at the Poole Recreation Center, 140 Recreation Road, Eatonton, Georgia.

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

Call to Order: Vice-Chairperson Sheri Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

No public comment was presented.

Approval of Agenda and last meeting minutes:

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

Amy Manville made the motion to approve the last meetings' minutes. Gloria Fasnacht seconded the approval of the January 24th meeting minutes and it was approved.

Pet care education programs:

Before the approved agenda items discussion started, Gloria Fasnacht informed the Board members of an adult and children educational program started by the Oconee Regional Humane Society with help from the Putnam Animal Control. She explained that this educational program will be presented initially at Putnam churches before reaching out to other organizations. The first adult educational presentation was held at the First Baptist Church of Eatonton on March 14th 2012.

Gloria Fasnacht, chair of the ORHS educational program committee, presented to the board printed materials handed out to the church's presentation attendees to promote awareness of pet overpopulation, shelter overload, pet disposal, and county ordinances on pet care. She also thanked Director Christine Tillman for her support and for her excellent presentation on the county's animal ordinances part of the program.

On the subject of education, Christine Tillman informed the board that Putnam Animal Control is working with the Georgia College & State University students on a creative children's educational program.

She also presented materials related to pet care that is used in this program. It involves 2nd grade children and their parents and includes visits to the Animal Control shelter.

Timeline for the Animal Control shelter renovation:

When questioned by the board, Christine Tillman did not have any news about the timeline for the renovation.

Putnam Animal Control euthanasia medicine re-certification: Christine Tillman informed the board that Putnam AC has applied for a permit to the Drug Enforcement Administration as part of the State of Georgia Department of Agriculture to keep the euthanasia medicine on-site.

Implementation of a volunteer program:

Christine Tillman informed the board that she is working with the Putnam High School on a volunteer program where the students, one per week, will spend 5 hours helping at the Putnam Animal Control.

Amy Manville mentioned that although a good thing, the AC needs an adult volunteer program. Gloria Fasnacht presented two examples of liability waiver forms to Christine Tillman.

Shelter Operation hours:

Gloria Fasnacht brought up the fact that by changing their operating hours made available to the public for adoption, the Baton Rouge Animal Control in Louisiana was able to cut their euthanasia rate by 30 percent.

Christine Tillman brought up the difficulty that changing hours could bring to rearranging payrolls.

Board members insisted that since the officers have to be at the shelter on Saturdays and Sundays to clean and feed the animals, those hours could be extended by 2-3 hours on Saturdays, to allow for Saturday's adoptions in exchange for these officers weekdays hours.

County Proclamation- Pet Adoption Week

The upcoming "Adoption Week" as in the Proclamation passed by the BOC last year is approaching and a discussion on how to best implement it this year was discussed.

Sylvia Dixon agreed to be the coordinator of efforts to implement it. Gloria brought up the dates May 1st through the 7th, but members also brought up that "Be Kind to Animals Week", started in 1905 by the American Humane Association and connected to our Putnam Proclamation, which starts May 6th through the 12th. Last year both weeks coincided, but this is not happening this year.

Christine Tillman will be studying the possibility to have the shelter open for adoptions one Saturday during May. She asked the members to make sure it will be well publicized.

Still on the publicity subject, Christine Tillman added that she has contacted the editor of the Eatonton Messenger and that, upon acquiring a sponsor, Putnam AC will have available dogs and cats featured weekly in the paper.

Discussion of changes to the county's ordinance concerning the welfare of domestic animals:

This agenda item was delayed until next meeting due to time constraint.

Adjournment: Sherri Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:53 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Gloria Fasnacht

Secretary – Member-at-Large