

## Franklin County Animal Advisory Board Minutes June 18, 2008

The Animal Advisory Board of Franklin County, North Carolina met at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building picnic area. The following Board Members were present: ex officio members: Franklin County Animal Control Director Graham Stallings and Franklin County Humane Society President Ida Estep; voting Board Members: Dianne Barrett, Chip Broughton, Elyse Goldman, DVM, Bess Nicholson, John Ryan, Brenda Simmons and Paulette Woods. Absent: ex-officio members Commissioner Bob Winters, Dr. Kimberley Barth and Franklin County Manager Angela Harris. There were no members of the general public present.

Chairperson Ryan opened the meeting with the introduction of Dr. Elyse Goldman appointed as a voting Board Member by Commissioner Foy, replacing Sandra Wood.

- 1) Board Members reviewed and approved minutes of the May 21, 2008 meeting. Ryan stated Coy Floyd, Franklin County IT will post the AAB meeting minutes and agenda on the Animal Control website.
- 2) Ryan announced the Commissioners' appointment of Dr. Kimberley Barth as the Veterinarian ex-officio to the Animal Advisory Board.
- 3) Open House:  
Stallings reported the Shelter is coming along on schedule, setting a tentative Grand Opening date of August 16, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Shelter Committee will meet June 26, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the New Animal Shelter.

Simmons will contact the Sourwood Mountain Boys, a local Bluegrass Band that has offered to perform at the Grand Opening free of charge as long as they are not committed to a prior engagement, and inform them of the tentative date for the Grand Opening.

Stallings stated the parking lot next to the Shelter will be cleared out for the day of the Grand Opening and the Sheriff's Office will assist with traffic and parking.

- 4) New Shelter:  
Stallings stated that the Franklin County Humane Society Shelter Fund would be transferred to a special account, where line items would be traceable. Stallings stated the county had cut the New Shelter budget for furnishings by \$12,000.00. Stallings mentioned the need for special items such as: a memorial to the late Senator Speed, scales, an electronic lift and unique furnishings for the dog and cat adoption rooms which could possibly be funded from the Humane Society Donation Fund. Simmons stated PetSmart has applied for a monetary grant to support the Shelter.

Stallings stated there will be specific hours for Adoptions and Drop Offs with a designated area for each process. Tentative hours for Adoptions would be Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During adoption times there must be an AC Officer/CRV present to vaccinate for rabies, who could also supervise volunteers. Stallings stated all AC Officers are now CRVs.

Stallings reported that the county is divided into three zones and currently there are three AC Officers each working a zone.

5) Volunteers in the New Shelter:

Simmons stated the Humane Society has a list of volunteers wanting to help with grooming, bathing, walking, etc. and trainers available for temperament testing on dogs. Simmons stated it will be up to Director Stallings to determine where volunteers are needed; to relay what the County will allow. Simmons stated other counties have trained volunteers; have looked at four other counties and how they handle their volunteer programs. Orange County currently has an excellent volunteer program that Franklin County could possibly model their program after. Simmons suggested a meeting and a walk through the facility with Stallings and a few Humane Society volunteers to see where volunteers are needed.

Broughton raised the question of “What have volunteers been allowed to do in the past at the old Shelter?” Stallings responded that in the past Humane Society members have been allowed in the old facility only to take pictures of the animals. Estep stated County Attorney Darnell Batton felt that the old facility raised a liability issue for volunteers. Stallings stated Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) for volunteers would have to go before the County and Batton for approval. No state statutes govern volunteers. Stallings recommended getting SOG’s put together for approval. Broughton suggested possibly having the Humane Society lay out guidelines using precedents from other counties with Stallings tweaking the guidelines.

6) Shelter Database

Ryan offered assistance with the data base for the Shelter. Stallings recommended waiting until the new computers, etc. have been installed.

The data entry program was started in January of 2007 with one data entry person; this information has been AC’s best tool. With this information they know where the problem areas are and can track recurrent problems.

7) The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the New Shelter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by Paulette Woods, Secretary to the Board