

## **Minutes of the Oconee Co. Animal Control Board Meeting**

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

7:00 pm – Oconee Veterans Park

### **Call to Order**

Chairperson, Debbie Caffery, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. In attendance in addition to Caffery: Vice Chair, Marie Williams, Secretary, Audrey Haynes, Member, Angie Eades, as well as Oconee Animal Services Manager, Crystal Berisko; Director of Oconee County EMA, C.J. Worden, as well as members of the Friends of Oconee County Animal Services volunteer organization. In addition, newly appointed Advisory Board member, Marsha Mitchell, whose term begins in July, was introduced to current members as she was in attendance. Absent: Mark Dawson. A quorum was present and noted.

### **Approval of Minutes (January 9, 2019)**

Chairperson Debbie Caffery motioned for the approval of the minutes from the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting after confirming that everyone had reviewed the minutes. Williams seconded the motion. All members affirmed. The motion was passed, and the minutes were approved.

### **Public Comments**

Chairperson Debbie Caffery called for public comments. No members of the public offered comment.

### **Manager of Animal Services Updates-Crystal Berisko**

Manager Berisko provided updates on the following:

#### **a. Animal Services Statistics Update**

Data on intakes, transfers, adoptions, returns to owners, euthanasia. Numbers since July 2, 2018: total of 169 owner surrenders, 523 strays, 20 agency transfer ins, 413 adoptions (of those 226 were at Pet Smart) and 245 agency transfer out to rescue groups; 86 return to owners, and only 50 euthanasia (of those 99% were medical or requested by resident. Current numbers are good. It was noted that inventory of animals is holding steady at an average of 60 animals. More than half of what it had been on average prior to Manager Berisko's tenure. The focus is on finding places for the animals: adoption, foster, and environments where they will be adopted more quickly. Currently, there are puppies, and these are being fostered, pre-adopted and adopted at healthy rates. Most of them are abandoned in the county – several with health issues that are being addressed. Cats are relatively low in number. Many in foster care. Foster program continues to do well thanks to great volunteer effort.

## **b. Upcoming Events**

Manager Berisko explained that Oconee County Animal Services will be partnering with many other groups, including other county organizations, to fulfill its mission and to help serve the county and its citizens. Several of the events discussed included:

- April 22 Adopt a Mile/Earth Day Celebration: partnering with Keep Oconee County Beautiful
- April 24 Paws for Dawgs
- April 27 Mary's Tack and Feed Adoption Event
- May 4 Sycamore Vet Open House and Adoption Event
- May 6 Paws and Relax – with UGA
- May 10 Offices visit Rocky Branch for career day
- May 11 Southern Brewery Adoption Event
- May 14 tentative fundraising event with Friends of Oconee County Animal Services: percentage night at local eateries.
- May 17-19 PetSmart National Event: OCAS will be a part of the event with adoption and public education activities. Manager Berisko is working with PetSmart to coordinate the event.
- May 25 – Yoga and Dogs Fundraiser with Let it Be Yoga

## **c. Heartworm Awareness Month**

Working with Barber Creek Vet Hospital. FOCAS sponsoring free heart worm tests for first 25 check-up visits to Barber Creek Veterinary Hospital. Goal is to help reduce the number of heartworm positive dogs in the community.

## **d. New Social Media Plan**

Social media intern has been working on a custom social media plan for OCAS and will be rolling it out of the next few weeks to gain more visibility and create more awareness in our community about the OCAS, its missions, and other special programs.

## **e. Keller Williams Adoption Event**

Keller Williams will be underwriting an adoption event this month.

## **f. Employee health and fitness promotion**

Manager Berisko has been working to promote health and fitness of the OCAS officers and employees.

## **g. September is National Disaster Preparedness Month**

Manager Berisko and her team, with support from Director Worden, will be working on developing an emergency operation plan for animal services – one for shelter and one for the county.

## **h. OCAS Renovation**

Manager Berisko answered questions regarding the progress toward the renovation. Comments were made regarding the enhancements that had already been made through staff and volunteer efforts to utilize current space efficiently and effectively.

**i. Discussion of volunteer coordination efforts**

**j. Reminder of the next meeting dates:** July 10, 2019 and October 9, 2019.

**New business:**

- a. Manager Berisko shared with the board her efforts at encouraging more volunteerism within OCAS to the greater community. OCAS employees will be volunteering with the senior center by bringing an animal to the center and hanging out with the seniors. the senior center is also interested in helping with a fundraising effort on behalf of OCAS.
- b. In addition, OCAs will be doing some guest speaking at other county events and the afterschool and summer camps.
- c. Golf Tournament idea is in the works. Big event and will take some time to plan.
- d. Potential 5K idea.
- e. Working with Waggin Tails and Happy Tails and Mainstreet Vet for out of shelter enrichment, fostering and adoption.
- f. Thanks to Kelly Sandefur for all she does with her photography that she so generously donates. And for taking on Pet Finder management.
- g. Thanks to all the volunteers of the Friends of Oconee County Animal Services.

Chair Debbie Caffery called for any other comments. None given.

Moved to adjourn by the Chair; seconded by Marie Williams, Vice Chair.

The meeting ended at 7:55 pm.