

SEMINOLE COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gayle Hair
Kris Buchanan
Det. John Monk
Bryan Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bridget Lake
John McGrath
Dr. Vizcarrando

OTHERS: Alan Harris, Chief Administrator
Carole Coleman, Administrator
Denise Sims, Clerk to the Board
Bree Burkett, Program Coordinator
Albert Adams, Shelter Supervisor
Lauren Watts, Field Services Supervisor
Dawn Ferrin, CSR Specialist
Robbie McHugh, Attorney to the Board

The following is a non-verbatim transcript of the Seminole County Animal Control Board (here in known as ACB) meeting held June 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM, at the Seminole County BCC Chambers, 1101 E 1st St, Sanford, FL 32771.

Call to Order

Bryan Wilson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Duty/Function of the Board

Duty of the Board was read by the Chairman

Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Clerk, A quorum was met.

Minutes:

1. A motion was made to accept the June 8th minutes and seconded, the minutes were approved by the board.

Old Business:

1. TNVR update

Albert Adams, Kennel Supervisor, gave an update on the TNVR. 422 cats were transferred to TNVR program this year through the shelter.

Andrea Hubb provided an update on the TNVR program 1394 total cats through the program that includes cats that they trapped and received from Animal Services. She asked for data on how much the program was saving the County, and would also like to see Seminole County help fund the program.

2. Animal Abuse Registry

Alan Harris updated the Board on the progress of Seminole County's progress on adding an Animal Abuse registry to the website. This was originally brought up by a County Commissioner and brought to the Animal Control Board for discussion. Originally it was tabled due to Senate bill 9.32 which would establish a statewide animal abuse registry, but that bill has since failed.

Animal Services has picked up the project again, and has discussed it with County Legal, Risk Management, IT Department, and Clerk of the Court to consider all information that would impact this database.

Board members discussed the different options, questions, and concerns including removal of names from the website, to how long the offender would be on the website, any discrepancies in the information provided on the website.

Public commentary was opened up and the following people requested to speak before the Animal Control Board:

1. Linda Rayden, 657 Lake Dr., Altamonte Springs
2. Debbie Derino, 6795 Calistoga Cir, Port Orange, FL 32128
3. Katrina Shadix, 1011 Seneca Oak Trl., Geneva, FL 32732

All speakers spoke in favor of Seminole County Animal Abuse registry.

Board members discussed a possible change in the name registry vs database, and concerns of when the offender would be placed on the website, at time of conviction vs time of appeal.

The Board voted to support the Animal Abuse Registry going before the County Commission for approval.

3. Hound Around Town update

Dawn Ferrin, updated the 1-year anniversary of the program, with 170 animals on walks 153 adopted. A total of 392 hours has been logged under the Hound Around Town program. While only a few have been adopted because they were seen during Hound Around Town, the report cards each dog receives has helped with getting the dogs adopted. Board members suggested going to local gyms and health centers to advertise the program.

4. Paws N Claus

Dawn Ferrin introduced the Board to the upcoming event that will take place in December where animal-based rescues and businesses will gather to promote adoptions and animal care. The event will be hosted at a Seminole County park and will also include a visit from Santa Claus for photo opportunities

New Business:

1. Changes to the Animal Services Administrative code

Alan Harris informed the Board of a change to admin code 32.5.5 requiring Animal Control Officers to take a 1-hour course through Department of Children and Family Services. The Board voted to move the changes to the Seminole County Commissioners.

Event Updates:

1. Bree Burkett updated the Board on the many events that were held at the shelter during the last 3 months include adoption specials, vaccine clinics, social media posts, CW18 TV spots and volunteer orientations. The BFF program continues to be a hit with High School students and has allowed the foster program to expand to include more kittens.

Kennel Statistics:

1. At this time Alan Harris introduced the Board to the Dashboard that has been added to the Animal Services website to show the public the number of animals that come into and leave the shelter. The Board reviewed the statistics with no questions for the staff.

Non-Agenda Public Commentary

1. Katrina Shadix spoke before the Board about prohibiting the use of snares and steel traps, she spoke about the alligator that was recently seen in Sanford missing the top of its jaw. She asked for the Board to do something at the local level to ban the use of these items. Carole Coleman asked for clarification that steel traps have already been banned in Florida, Katrina clarified that FWC can provide special exemptions for use of these types of traps.
2. Linda Rayden also spoke before the Board asking for Animal Services to place snipe signs in the parks regarding signs against walking their dogs in 90 degree weather or the "heat of the day".

Confirmation of Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting was confirmed for December 14, 2023.

Carole Coleman asked the Board members to contact the Board Secretary about reappointment for next year.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.