

Metro Animal Care and Control Advisory Council Meeting Minutes November 14, 2012

Present:

Dr. Bill Paul, Phran Galante, Joy Beach, Jon Cole, Brent Hager, Janis Sontany, Council Lady Karen Bennett, Dr. Brent Hager, Judy Ladebauche, Billy Biggs, Tom Sharp. Martha Bickley, recorder

Approval of September 19, 2012 Minutes

Jon Cole made a motion to approve the September 19, 2012 minutes. Council Lady Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MACC Update

Judy Ladebauche reported that MACC had recently participated in several outside adoption events that were fun and successful. During the upcoming weekend MACC would participate in the Child Safety Fair at Norman Binkley Elementary School; this event is the second one in recent months that has been organized by a scout as their project. She invited those present to support with their attendance.

MARS held another Volunteer Day at MACC and repaired the sensory garden, also building a bench and stairs.

ROVER will return to MACC Friday for another spay/neuter event and Judy looks forward to the partnership continuing. Due to the holidays there would not be a ROVER spay/neuter day at MACC but they will resume in January 2013.

MACC will participate in both the Nashville Gas and the Donelson-Hermitage Christmas parades. Ms. Sontany offered one of her large signs to MACC to decorate the truck.

Legislative Update

Council Lady Bennett met with animal welfare advocates at MACC on improving the tethering ordinance and there were great suggestions presented. Ms. Bennett offered to send the draft to Tom Sharp to be disseminated to the group for their input before she introduces it to Council.

UPAW Update

Ms. Galante reported that she and Ms. Sontany had met with Dr. Paul and had provided him information about differential licensing. Dr. Paul said that he had not had the opportunity to digest the information yet.

They had also met with Deputy Mayor Greg Hinote and Ms. Galante said that his reaction to the concept of differential licensing as ecstatic, and that he understood the proposal as being funds raised through differential licensing would fund The Big Fix 2020 instead of going into the Metro's General Fund. They expressed to him the need for IT resources for data entry.

They had also met with Councilmember-at-large Megan Barry, who had expressed her interest and support, and they look forward to hearing back from her in the next few weeks.

Dr. Paul urged careful consideration on the topic and cautioned against policy recommendations being presented as being formed by the Advisory Council.

Mr. Cole expressed his concern that the process had not been transparent, and asked for clarification on the timeframe for the drafting of the ordinance, and for introduction to Council.

Ms. Galante presented “Red, White and Blue Light Special” evening adoption event at MACC. Dr. Paul asked everyone to mark their copy as “draft.” Billy Biggs noted that an event during July might pose some difficulties, as it is one of MACC’s busiest months. Ms. Ladebauche offered her support for the proposal, and suggested getting approval for a reduced adoption fee for the event from the Board of Health well in advance of the event.



111412 Red White
and Blue Special Draft

Dr. Paul noted that a discounted adoption fee at a special event might prompt increased traffic and adoptions, as might having an event at a different time, and engaging the public in a different way that would permit them to become familiar with aspects of MACC not usually experienced.

Ms. Beach lauded the idea of adoption events but also suggested that MACC administration have authority to reduce fees for special cases on a day-to-day basis. Dr. Paul asked Ms. Ladebauche to talk to the staff and propose recommendations, and he asked Ms. Beach what variations NHA employed. Ms. Beach said NHA reduces the fees, does promotions and does everything they can to bring attention to long term residents (candidates for adoption) and special cases. Dr. Paul advised that a proposal for staff authority to reduce adoption fees on a case-by-case basis which was based on best practices elsewhere could be presented to the Board of Health and would likely be approved.

As an example, Billy Biggs described a case in which an elderly citizen had been in an auto accident. Her dog was in the car with her and was impounded as a result of the accident. Substantial boarding fees were accrued during the lady’s hospitalization and she could not afford the fees to reclaim the dog. MACC staff paid the fee so that the dog could be returned to the owner.

Council Lady Bennett suggested reaching out to young professional groups and inviting them to host an after-hours event at the MACC facility. Other groups suggested were women’s groups, Junior Chamber of Commerce, service organization who might take on MACC needs as a project. Billy Biggs informed the group that David Collins was still working on application for 501(c)(3) status for the organization that was formerly Friends of MACC. Billy said that he would send Mr. Collin’s e-mail address to Martha.

Ms. Galante made a motion that the Advisory Council invite David Collins to be a member of the MACC Advisory Council. Mr. Cole seconded the motion, which was accepted.

Ms. Beach made a motion that MACC staff be requested to develop a plan for price incentives for adoption. The motion was seconded and accepted.

Dr. Paul encouraged members to consider others who might be invited to participate in the group and bring their names to the next meeting.

Update on Partnership Between Pets and People

Ms. Beach reported that in the 37013 and 37207 zip codes, 1,524 animals have 994 rabies tags issued through the Partnership Between Pets and People project. The project has experienced a 14-15% no show rate, which Ms. Beach reports is low. She and Ms. Ladebauche are scheduled to meet within the next two weeks to determine the next area or zip code merits the Partnership's attention. Ms. Beach will continue to monitor the 37013 and 37207 zip codes. Council Lady Bennett asked if consideration could be given to zip codes that border 37207, such as 37216 and 37206, where she has had many requests for ROVER's services and offered to find a space where the van could be parked for an event.

ROVER will be at MACC for spay/neuter days on January 18 and February 15.

Ms. Ladebauche said that intakes at MACC had been highly encouraging and she hopes the trend will continue; if so, she credits NHA's efforts in prevention. She said that she would be analyzing the data regarding requests for service in high volume areas before she met with Ms. Beach to determine where the project would focus next.

Evaluation/Other Business

Billy Biggs reported that he had conducted Animal Offender class the previous weekend and all but one of those ordered to participate had attended. Referee Todd now issues a bench warrant for "no-shows," as he had told Council Lady Bennett he would.

Dr. Paul mentioned that the General Plan, Nashville 2040, will provide a vision and guidance for growth and development in Davidson County and influence future progress in much of Middle Tennessee. The effort is starting in January and is spearheaded by Rick Bernhardt and Nashville Planning Commission. The website is <http://nashville2040.org/> Dr. Paul encouraged members to participate in the process by signing up at the website.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled on **Wednesday, January 23, 2012** at 3:00 p.m. in Room 212 of the Lentz Public Health Center.

Please mark your calendar for the 2013 meeting dates: January 23, March 13, May 8, July 10, September 11, and November 13.