

Minutes of the August 8, 2013 Meeting of the Executive Committee for the Roanoke Valley Regional Pound

The following is a recap of a meeting of the Executive Committee for the Roanoke Valley Regional Pound held on Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the conference room of Roanoke City Council.

Executive Committee members present at such meeting were Chairman B. Clayton Goodman, Christopher P. Morrill, Kathleen D. Guzi, Christopher S. Lawrence and Christopher C. Pekins. Also present at the meeting were Jill Deegan, David Flager, Brent Robertson, Ann Shawver, Brian Townsend, and Andrea Trent. This meeting was set to address several operational and transitional issues involving the Regional Pound and the transference of operations from the SPCA to the Executive Committee.

1. The meeting opened with the approval of meeting minutes from the July 11, 2013 Executive Committee meeting.
2. David Flager, Executive Director of the Regional Pound provided an update on transitional issues; Fire Marshall inspection of the breezeway, dispersion of shared services, staffing and build-up of veterinarian space and supplies. Mr. Flager also commented on the live release rates for both dogs and cats as of July 2013. The Pound is experiencing a decrease in the number of animals transferred to rescue organizations thus causing a population increase at the Pound with the most notable impact being a decrease in the live release of cats. Preliminary fiscal year-end financial data was reviewed and reflected an anticipated use of reserve funds to cover higher than anticipated expenditures for food, veterinarian, legal and security expenses. Mr. Flager communicated that he continued to research and work on establishing the Pound as an adoption center. Several alternatives were discussed with continued work in this area needed prior to finalizing the action plan. The Pound continues to receive tremendous support from Angels of Assisi during this interim period. Mr. Flager concluded his report with a demonstration of the use of a "catch pole" and an explanation on why and when they are used in response to recent social media conversations.
3. The Executive Committee next discussed the desire to expand the subcommittee organizational structural by adding a Strategic Planning/Financial Committee. This committee would complement the Operational Committee and would coordinate administrative, fiscal, and strategic operations between the Pound, the Operations Committee and the Executive Committee. It was decided the committee structure would mirror the prior Advisory Board structure with the City having two representatives as the highest utilizer of Pound services coupled with the physical location being in the city while the remaining localities would have one representative.

4. Ms. Shawver, Director of Finance, next presented information to the Committee on debt alternatives in payment of the outstanding loan related to the Pound facility. The Committee discussed options and requested the newly created Strategic Planning/Financial Committee to review current reserves and debt alternatives and recommend to the Executive Committee a desired course of action.
5. The Executive Committee next approved a Fiscal 2013 - 2014 Operations Budget as developed and presented by the former Advisory Board. The Committee also approved a Fee Schedule in preparation of adoptions to help offset expenditures.
6. The Executive Committee next opened the meeting to public comment. Discussion topics included an inquiry to the Board on if they had actually toured Pound facility, advertisement of "no-interest" animals, donations, usage of catch poles, promoting the Pound, legislation regarding controlling the breeding ability of unregistered breeders, euthanization of animals, public education, Pound adoptions and volunteers.
7. Mr. Goodman closed the public commentary session of the meeting with an announcement the next meeting would be held on September 12, 2013 in the same location. The public was asked to exit as the Committee moved into a closed session to discuss both a committee appointment and a personnel matter.
8. Mr. Goodman reopened the public meeting with the announcement of the appointment of Jill Degan as an Advisor to the Executive Committee.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

David Flager Commitments

1. Work with rescue agencies and low cost spay/neuter clinic on public education
2. Research voucher programs as described by Clay Goodman – possible opportunity for grant funding
3. Create task force – ACO's and Rescue groups to research possibility of having portion of licensing dollars received dedicated to spay/neuter (similar in nature to dollars received re: pet friendly motor vehicle tags). Preliminary plan of action targeted for presentation at November meeting with approval in December in advance of legislative season.

Public Commentary Summary

1. Ann-Marie Transue, Taxpaying, Home-owner, Citizen
 - a. Inquiry to the Board on if they had actually toured Pound facility?
 - b. Advertisement of “no-interest” animals
 - c. Donations
 - d. Usage of catch pole
2. Waynette Anderson, Concerned Citizen, President of Sponsor Hounds
 - a. Volunteer help on promoting Pound
 - b. Suggested legislation regarding controlling breeding of unregistered breeders.
3. Jane Brown, Roanoke City Citizen
 - a. Euthanization of animals
 - b. Public education
 - c. RCACP Adoptions
 - d. Volunteers
4. Lisa O’Neill, Angels of Assisi
 - a. Adoptions