

ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)

MEETING MINUTES Thursday, April 4, 2024

Office of Animal Services
7315 Muncaster Mill Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Derwood, MD 20855

I. Call to Order

7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Jennifer Hughes.

Present In-Person: Jennifer Hughes, Interim Acting Chair; Vicki Thomas, Vice Chair; Elizabeth Mullen; Caroline Hairfield, Director; Dr. Gregory Lawrence; Lex Lepiarz, Deputy Director; and Bonnie White.

Present Virtually via Microsoft Teams: Kim Haden, Maureen Smith, and Sandy Yuen.

Present In-Person Staff: Trish Ranshaw.

Absent: Jan Armstrong; Melissa Rubin; and Ken Hartman, Director of Strategic Partnerships for Montgomery County Government.

Handouts:

- Thursday, April 4, 2024 Agenda
- Thursday, March 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- MMPC Recommendations Progress Report, Office of Animal Services, March 27, 2024
- Draft Testimony for FY25 Operating Budget Public Hearing on April 9, 2024

II. Welcoming Remarks, Message from Director Caroline Hairfield, and Introduction of ASAC Committee Members

7:01 p.m.

Welcome to Director Hairfield! Director Hairfield is here and wants to help. This is her home, and she loves community and building community. Director Hairfield is very committed to the cause, and she shared her touching story of being the voice for the voiceless.

From 7:07 p.m. to 7:17 p.m., ASAC members introduced themselves to Director Hairfield. Everyone looks forward to working with Dir. Hairfield.

III. Shelter Updates – Lex Lepiarz, Deputy Director

7:17 p.m.

Deputy Director Lepiarz provided a basic shelter update. Some topics include the following:

- October 1, 2023, a bill was passed that enables trained shelter staff to administer rabies vaccines.
- Starting March 15, 2024, pet licensing is handled by Pet Data in Texas.
- Staff completed in-house defensive dog handling and dog attack training. Next will train volunteers.
- Sound proofing dog kennels: will be looking into sound testing before committing.
- Pet adoptions: results not as what we hoped for.
- Satisfaction survey: 91% / 100% for March!
- Community Cat Section now on website.

- Officers expected to engage with the community every day.
- Effective April 7, 2024, Spencer Kelly will be Acting Deputy Director while Deputy Director Lepiarz is on maternity leave.

IV. Update on Implementation of Maddie’s Fund Recommendations - Lex Lepiarz, Deputy Director 7:25 p.m.

See handout titled “MMPC Recommendations Progress Report, Office of Animal Services, March 27, 2024” for updates. Deputy Director Lepiarz answered questions from ASAC members. Some question topics include the foster program, long wait times, and Director Hairfield looking into FMCA’s and MCSNIP’s spay and neuter programs parking at OAS.

V. Review and Approve Thursday March 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes 7:32 p.m.

Reviewed March 7, 2024, meeting minutes. **Motion by Vicki Thomas to approve minutes, 2nd by Maureen Smith. Vote – Approved by all.**

VI. Review and Approval of Draft Testimony for FY25 Operating Budget Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 – Kim Haden 7:33 p.m.

Reviewed and discussed draft testimony. **Motion by Kim Haden to put draft testimony in front of ASAC, 2nd by Elizabeth Mullen. Vote – Approved by all.**

A friendly amendment regarding an addition of a date was offered by Maureen Smith and accepted by Kim Haden at 7:45 p.m. All were in favor of this friendly amendment.

At 7:46 p.m., it was clarified that Kim Haden will submit both the original letter and the written testimony.

VII. Updates on Vacant ASAC Positions, Including the Naming of an Organization to Replace FMCA – Ken Hartman 7:47 p.m.

Ken Hartman was not present, therefore there was no updates on filling vacant ASAC positions, nor naming of an organization to replace FMCA. Director Hairfield will connect with Ken Hartman regarding any candidates and will head up interviews.

VIII. Public Comment By

Stephen Roznowski	7:48 p.m.
Bruce Cohen	7:51 p.m.
Alan Cohen	7:52 p.m.
Susan Rich	7:54 p.m.

IX. Closing Remarks and Meeting Adjourned 8:02 p.m.

Prior to the meeting being adjourned, Director Hairfield relayed her “why” statement and shared the story of Judy, a dog she tried to save. Director Hairfield spoke for Judy then, and has been speaking for Judy for 30 years. She asked that we speak for Judy also.

Motion by Elizabeth Mullen, 2nd by Vicki Thomas. Unanimous vote: All in favor. Approved.