

Garrett County Animal Issues Advisory Committee

October 25, 2006
Minutes

ATTENDEES:	Bernadine Friend	Randy Resh	Dona Alvarez
	Gary Mullich	Brad Frantz	
	James Yoder	Bonnie Zimmerman	
ABSENT:	Steve Anderson	Joyce Moyer	
	Rodney Glotfelty	Edgar Harman	

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the September 27, 2006 were approved on a motion by Gary Mullich, which was seconded by Randy Resh, discussion, a vote was taken (6-0), all in favor –no opposed - motion carried for approval of minutes.

Unfinished Business:

1. Issue: Update on Kennel Operators Court Case

Bernadine Friend informed the committee that the court date scheduled for the following week had been postponed. Bonnie Zimmerman stated that the new court date is March 14, 2007.

As of this date, the county attorney, Gorman E. Getty, III, is waiting for the attorney of the kennel operator to return his call to discuss the legal options for this case. To date the Kennel Operator still has not been given his kennel license since charges are filed against him and the kennel is still not up to standard code of the Garrett County Animal Ordinance. The Kennel Operator would like to get out of business but needs a kennel license to sell the dogs he still has.

Bernadine Friend stated that the Humane Society would drop charges if the Kennel Operator would turn over the breeders and clean up their kennel. Brad Frantz stated that since the attorneys have already established contact, the committee should wait for the County Attorney to explain what their next step should be.

Brad Frantz reiterated that the county would assist and support the Humane Society whenever possible as long as it is in their scope of duties. Until legislation is passed, that is all they can do legally.

2. Issue: Legal Issues with the Animal Ordinance

Copies of the Annotated Code of Maryland concerning animal regulations was distributed and discussed. The committee voiced the need to add Garrett County into the code through legislation. This legislative request will be forwarded to the County Commissioners for inclusion into the upcoming legislative session.

Ms. Friend suggested several issues that she would like to see revised in the Garrett County Animal Ordinance. She requested that all members write down what they would like to have revised in the Ordinance for discussion at the next meeting. Ms. Friend made a motion to move forward with discussion of improvements/amendments to the Animal Ordinance and also to check with other counties to see what their rates/charges are, this was seconded by Gary Mullich, discussion, all was in favor (6-0) – no opposed - motion carried.

New Business:

1. Issue: Introduction of Robert’s Rules of Order Guidelines for Meeting Procedure

Brad Frantz briefly gave an overview of a handout on Roberts Rules and expressed his opinion that the meetings would be more efficiently ran following these rules.

On a motion by Brad Frantz, and seconded by Bonnie Zimmerman, discussion, a vote was taken and all was in favor (6-0)– no opposed – the motion carried to accept Robert’s Rules of Order for committee meetings.

2. Proposed New Animal Shelter Facility

Committee members meet with the County Commissioners to discuss issues they would like to see happen and the need for a new animal shelter. The requested new facility is still in the development/discussion stage.

3. Miscellaneous Issues

Bonnie Zimmerman - The Garrett County Animal Shelter continues to get complaints of barking dogs in the different municipalities. When the animal shelter personnel travels to the location of the complaint, the alleged barking dog is not barking and they are not able to determine is the barking was excessive in nature. Therefore the Animal Shelter is not able to do anything.

Ms. Zimmerman has spoken with the Town Mayors and has asked them to adopt a noise or nuisance ordinance in their own town ordinance. Ms. Zimmerman would like to set up another meeting with the town mayors to discuss this issue. Brad Frantz asked if a letter asking for assistance from the County Commissioners would help. Gary Mullich stated the towns may be able to add “barking dog /noise” to their nuisance section of the town ordinances.

Brad Frantz stated that the Code Enforcement Officer of Mtn. Lake Park already has citations to give out for violations of noise ordinance.

Scheduling of Next Meeting: Wednesday – December 6, 2006 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Attest

J. Bradley Frantz,
Chair

Date _____