

Task Force for the Humane Treatment of Animals in Municipal Shelters
Minutes from January 6, 2016, Final Meeting

Members in attendance: Co-chair Michael Freda, Co-chair Diane Collette, Cynthia Theran, Mark Bailey, Edward O'Brien, Raymond Connors, Kimberley McDonald, Paula Poplawski.

Chairman Freda convened the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

Chairman Freda began with introductions of the task-force members.

Chairman Freda moved onto the origin of the task-force as well as an explanation of what the original intention of the task-force was and finally a brief explanation of the recommendations the task-force had come up with over the course of the year. The chairman stated that one of the major recommendations would be that the task-force be recommissioned for proceeding years.

Chairman then asked for discussion of the minutes from last month. A motion to accept those minutes was then made by Ed O'Brien and seconded by Diana Collette.

Chairman Freda moved onto the Task-force final recommendations for the 2016 legislative session. He began by recognizing Mark Bailey who was undertaking the draft language of two legislative proposals. The no euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals and the mandatory spay and neuter of adopted animals from municipal shelters proposals.

Mark Bailey began with a reading of the draft language for proposal for no kill for healthy and treatable animal.

Mark read the proposal aloud (Draft document will be uploaded for the record)

Mark stated that this policy mimicked Delaware state law.

Mark moved onto mandatory spay and neuter proposal. He read aloud the Draft proposal language (uploaded).

He stated that this is already municipal ordinances in a few different municipalities within the state.

Chairman Freda moved onto item B. Proposal for Breeders license program.

Diana Collette read aloud the draft language drafted by Sgt. Paula Keller for Breeders license program. (uploaded)

Chairman Freda moved onto Item C. Proposal for Animal abuse registry.

Cynthia Theran read the animal abuse violator registry proposal aloud. (uploaded)

Chairman Freda moved onto item D. Proposal to extend the Humane Treatment of Animal in Municipal Shelters Task-Force:

He read aloud the proposal to extend the Task-Force indefinitely. (No documentation)

Mark Bailey asked if the Chairman would entertain comments on the proposed language at this time.

Chairman Freda consented to hear comments from the members.

Edward O'Brien stated that he supported the inclusion of the no kill unless all methods of relocation or adoption has been explored. He also stated that he appreciated the animal abuse registry proposal being integrated into the other proposals so that they can work more efficiently together.

Paula Poplawski commended Cynthia on the work she did drafting the language for animal abuse registry. She also commended Mark on the thoughtfulness put into his proposals.

Mark Bailey echoed Edward O'Brien's point that all the proposal were integrated in a way that they would work better together assuming all were passed into law. He did have a reservation regarding the language used in the breeders permit. Mark Bailey asked if there was a way to remove the antiquated term "dog pound" in lieu of animal shelter.

Paula Poplawski stated that she believed the reasoning for the inclusion of the term in the language is that the term is used in current statute. Paula asked if the best course of action was to simply go into statute and replace the antiquated term "dog pound" in lieu of animal shelter.

Kimberly did state that she believed using the terminology used in current statute should be considered acceptable if that is the only way that the bill can cooperate with current language.

Mark Bailey agreed,

Chairman Freda asked for a consensus of whether the language would be left as is.

The task-force members agreed.

Cynthia suggested entering into the language the suggestion to remove dog pound.

Cynthia drew concern to language in the breeder's license proposal and the degrees of discretion allowed with the inclusion associated to "appropriate indoor/outdoor space". She asked if there was a need to define what appropriate indoor/outdoor space was.

Mark Bailey stated that there were likely definitions to be found in current statute regarding what is considered appropriate outdoor space.

Paula Poplawski stated that Sgt. Keller should be asked for a definition of appropriate space.

Cynthia Theran stated that the compromise would be to include the language “as determined by the ACO”

Edward O’Brien made the suggestion to raise the roof for the violation fees for breeder’s license to \$100 and the repeat violation fee to be \$1,000.

Another change was made to alter the start date to make it July 1st.

Mike Freda moved on to a non-legislative proposal Paula Poplawski’s volunteer model.

Edward O’Brien went on to comment about the model’s success so far in his town of West Haven.

Paula agreed that the facilities benefited from volunteers in West Haven.

Chairman Freda stated that they were not submitting this as a legislative proposal on account that the legislation could be construed as being a unfunded mandate because by law at least one municipally employed ACO’s would need to administer the volunteers.

Diana Collette stated that she was excited about the model even if it would not be submitted as proposed legislation.

Chairman Freda moved on to a review of Diana Urbans bill.

Edward O’Brein stated his complete support of the animal advocate bill.

Mark Bailey stated his support as well.

Cynthia Theran also stated her support.

Representative Diana Urban spoke with regards to her proposed bill and to thank the task-force for all their hard work.

Chairman Freda reiterated his support of the recommissioning of the task-force.

Chairman Freda asked for public comment and adjourned the meeting at 3:01pm.