

JEFFERSON COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2017

Mayor Bill Dieruf welcomed everyone and opened the JCLC April monthly meeting at 7:00PM, City of Middletown City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Road. He opened the floor to self introductions.

Mayor Dieruf announced that the normal order of meeting agenda items would be reversed because of the legal nature of items to be discussed by City representatives. He called on Jack Will, Executive Director, for introductions of program speakers.

The program topic for this meeting was ‘Animal Care & Sheltering in Our Community’, public-non-profit partnership: Louisville Metro Animal Shelter & Alley Cat Advocates, Inc. ‘How Cities Can Benefit from This Partnership’. Mr. Ozzy Gibson, Director of Metro Animal Services (MAS) and Karen Little, Exec. Dir./Founder of Alley Cat Advocates, Inc. Jack stated that he is Chair of the Alley Cat Advocates, Inc. Board and it is a valued partner with MAS in the area of animal/cat care & safety. It has become a nationally recognized organization due to the efforts of Karen Little, her husband and many volunteers.

Ozzy Gibson is retired from the Louisville Metro Police Dept. as Deputy Chief and was recently appointed by Mayor Greg Fischer as Director of MAS. Karen Little and her husband created Alley Cat Advocates (ACA) in 1999 when she observed a neighborhood issue of stray cats. ACA got the Metro Council to adopt an ordinance protecting stray cats under the community cat guidelines.

Ozzy reviewed the mission of MAS, ‘to protect public health and safety in Jefferson County, Kentucky, ensure the humane treatment of animals, provide quality, professional services to the public and find homes for every adoptable pet.’ MAS is the largest open municipal animal shelter in the State of Kentucky. It had an 86% live release rate in 2016.

MAS has five core services, programs and beliefs, animal care & sheltering. Services are field services, enforcement and rescues; community engagement; animal adoption & placement; administration & licensing. The following services are provided for personal pets, licensing & micro-chipping; vaccination clinics. MAS also works in the area of foster families and rescues and has a staff of Animal Control Officers to ensure humane treatment of animals countywide. He encouraged the attendees to get involved in the following ways, volunteer at MAS, report, foster, donate and/or adopt. In 2017 MAS has had 818 pets adopted, 139 pets fostered out, and 467 pets sent to rescue. Ozzy reviewed the partnership with Alley Cat Advocates (ACA) in the area of ‘trap & neuter-return’ programs.

Karen Little stated that ACA since 1999 has provided Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) services to over 40,000 cats. This also involves excellent veterinary care to these cats. ACA’s goal is to decrease the community cat population in the Louisville Metro, make the city safe for cats and make life better for cats and their neighbors. ACA works with people who take care of

community cats to humanely trap, spay or neuter and return them to their outdoor homes. These cats are medically treated..

ACA serves as an advocate for community cats. It works in partnership with local animal service organizations to reduce the number of healthy animals being euthanized in shelters. Karen defined a community cat as a stray or unowned cat who roams freely. Many or former pets who have been abandoned or lost. TNR is an effective, internationally recognized way of caring for community cats. One year after performing target TNR in one Louisville Metro zip code, cat intake to Lou. MAS from that area went down by more than half. ACA has grant funds to operate in every zip code in Jefferson County. She reviewed the TNR program in detail and how it can be utilized by cities. Questions and answers followed to both of them.

Mayor Bill Dieruf thanked Ozzie and Karen for their presentation and service to the community. He asked the meeting to go into executive session for representatives of cities only for the purpose of discussing legal issues.

Mayor Dieruf referred the attendees to the March 17, 2017 Board and Monthly Member meeting minutes. Motion to accept minutes by consensus. Approved.

He reported that the JCLC Board Exec. Comm. is continuing to work with representatives of Charter Communications on a draft agreement that cities may choose to utilize as a template for update of their existing city agreement with Charter Communications. JCLC will pass a completed draft to the Cities.

Mayor Dieruf reported on the current lawsuit by Mayor Greg Fischer against the JCLC, 82 cities and others regarding the HB 246/109 Board reorganization. Mayor Fischer is asking for a court injunction to hold the implementation of HB 246 until a review/ruling on its constitutionality. It will be heard in Franklin Co. Circuit Court.

JCLC has engaged an attorney to represent it and he is being assisted by several City attorneys. Each city will have to respond to the suit through its own attorney.

Mayor Dieruf thanked the cities that have contributed to a special JCLC legal fund that will cover the expenses of this lawsuit. JCLC and others are currently preparing the submission of their brief on this suit and will appear in court in a week or so. Mayor Dieruf and Schulyer Olt, City Attorney for Jeffersontown and other cities, took questions and answers regarding the suit and city responsibilities.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor David Brown, Secretary