



Peyton Oliver <peyton.oliver@como.gov>

Request for Scheduled Public Comment : 10-30-2024 08:34:43 am

noreply@gocolumbiamo.com <noreply@gocolumbiamo.com>

Wed, Oct 30, 2024 at 8:34 AM

Reply-To: jnromesburg@gmail.com

To: public.comment@como.gov

The following form submission was received on the City of Columbia website. The sender has been notified of the successful receipt of this request. Recipients should respond to this request within a reasonable time frame, normally within 1 to 3 business days. For more information regarding origin of this message or to report spam contact the Webmaster at webmaster@como.gov

Below are the results of a Web form submitted on: October 30th, 2024 at 08:34AM (CDT).

Requested Meeting Date: 2024-11-18

Speaker's Name: (please indicate if more than one speaker): Shelly Martin

Jennifer Romesburg

Telephone: 5734892082

Email Address: jnromesburg@gmail.com

Topic (please be specific): BOONE COUNTY ANIMAL CARE

HOMESTEAD NARRATIVE

General Description

Boone County Animal Care is a 501c3 non-profit animal welfare organization located in Columbia, Missouri. We are an entirely foster-based organization whose passion is improving the lives of animals in our community. Founded in 2012, we started helping dogs and cats in our community. A few years later, we noticed that cat rescuing was lacking in this area. We started to just focus on providing care to kittens and cats of all ages and physical condition until they are successfully adopted into a family home. We go above and beyond to work with the community to provide the best support and care for animals and owners that need help through adoption, and TNR (trap, neuter, release). We are dedicated to providing education resources to community members regardless of income. It's important to our mission to decrease overpopulation, illnesses and keep animals out of euthanizing shelters. Our goal, given the opportunity, would like to become Columbia's first no-kill municipal shelter that helps both dogs and cats.

Boone County Animal Care would like to open a discussion regarding the 4.6 acre tract that the City owns located near 840 Strawn Road. (Parcel #16-104-00-04-001 and 16-104-00-04-002). These parcels were originally donated to the City by Larry Potterfield in April 2017. The City and CMHS (Central Missouri Humane Society) agreed to a formal MOU that was approved by the City Council May 21, 2018. Since that time CMHS has declined to accept the parcels, electing to go another direction referencing expanding their current facility.

Boone County Animal Care would like the council to consider donating the parcels to Boone County Animal Care for the purpose of building Columbia's first no kill municipal shelter. Further, Boone County Animal Care is proposing a partnership with Boone County Animal Control, which would allow Boone County Animal Control better accommodations and resources, allowing greater services for the community as a whole.

Building:

Years of research has been done to include visiting other locations, conferring with engineers and architects, Boone County Animal Care would like to construct a 20,000 square foot two story building. The structure would include ample office space, meeting rooms, kennels, feline enclosures and a PARVO ward. The acreage allows ample space for the construction to house all types of pets and personalities in a secure and safe environment. The facility will look nothing like a stereotypical "kennel." Boone County Animal Care standards of care is unquestionably the highest in the industry. Boone County Animal care will do its best to model a home-like environment inside and out, and will have outdoor fenced yards where the dogs are allowed to play during the day under careful supervision of trained staff. Additionally this structure would provide a veterinary surgical room, equipped with an x-ray machine, tables and life saving equipment. Preliminary estimates on the cost of the structure and equipment is \$2,000,000. Our organization is confident that with the support of the community through donations, fundraising functions and grants we would be able to secure the funds necessary to retain architectural services and complete construction.

Personnel:

The shelter would provide care 365 days a year. Operating hours will be 8 am to 7 pm. The morning

shift will begin with quick walks, clean ups, and breakfast and then their day will be filled with human

and animal socialization and training. The evening shift ends with last walks and tuck-ins and most importantly allows our staff to safely drive home and have quiet hours. There will be security measures in place to ensure no animals can escape the property. Staffing will include core staff members and licensed veterinarians with the use of our large network of volunteers.

Financial:

Currently the two parcels mentioned are maintained by the City of Columbia. Allowing Boone County Animal Care to take ownership of these parcels would relieve this burden on the City. Additionally, we are willing to negotiate a fair and reasonable contract with Boone County Animal Control for a period of 10 years. As mentioned above this would provide them with a better environment than they currently have, thus allowing them to expand and improve their services to the community.

Goal:

The ultimate goal for every animal is to find them a safe, loving, forever home. Our dream is to wake up to a world where every animal is treated with kindness, dignity, respect and most importantly their lives have been touched by love, even if only for a moment. We know this is a big request, but this is a journey we are whole-heartedly committed to, one which we are not only improving the lives of the animals in our care, but also for the lives of people involved and the community around us. If along the way we have motivated just one person to change and treat an animal better, then together we are changing the world - one soul at a time. We appreciate your consideration on this proposal and again ask that discussions be opened for the opportunity to allow us to construct Columbia's first no kill municipal facility.

I understand that the information submitted in this form will be published with a City Council agenda and will be made available to the public.: yes

IP:63.238.255.10

Form: Request for Scheduled Public Comment

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