

City of Trenton – Department of Health and Human Services

Trenton Animal Welfare Advisory Board

Minutes of the Meeting

Date: June 30, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Department of Health and Human Services, City of Trenton, NJ

Official Meeting Proceedings

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at **5:50 PM** by Dr. Lenore Robinson, Chair.

Roll Call:

Present:

- Dr. Lenore Robinson (Chair)
- Ms. Katelyn Seeland (Secretary)
- Ms. Janina Calle
- Ms. Desire Walker (Vice Chair)
- Ms. Destiny Walker

Absent:

- Dr. Diego Minacapelli
- Mr. Joseph Antonello
- Ms. Marge Caldwell-Wilson

Also in Attendance (on behalf of Dr. Minacapelli):

- Ms. Glenda Grant Roberts
- Ms. Ruth Carter

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the May 28, 2025 meeting were reviewed.

- *Motion to approve:* Ms. Katelyn Seeland
- *Seconded by:* Ms. Desire Walker
- *Vote:* Approved unanimously

Unfinished Business

1. Spay/Neuter Program:

- The board discussed potential grant opportunities identified by **Dr. Robinson** to support low-cost and subsidized spay/neuter services. **Dr. Robinson** noted outreach to **House Paws**, and mobile services are not provided. Further inquiries will be made with **People for Animals** and local providers.
- Action Items:
 - **Dr. Robinson** to contact **People for Animals** in Robbinsville and circulate a grant template.
- **Ms. Desire Walker** to compile information on similar programs and associated costs, including the local \$10–\$20 programs
- This item was tabled for continued discussion at the next meeting.
 - *Motion to table:* Dr. Robinson
 - *Seconded by:* Ms. Desire Walker
 - *Vote:* Approved unanimously

2. Chicken Ordinance Review:

- The board received a **virtual presentation from Ms. Gwenee Baile on implementing backyard chicken ordinances**. Ms. Baile described her experience piloting successful ordinances in Haddonfield and other municipalities, **emphasizing the importance of education, licensing, and community buy-in**. She recommended a two-year pilot program and outlined key elements, including training classes, inspections, and advisory boards.
- Board members discussed the **challenges** of adapting such a program for Trenton, including **yard sizes, existing chickens, enforcement, and ordinance structure**.
- Action Items:
 - **Ms. Janina Calle** to research NYC's chicken ordinance.
 - **Ms. Destiny Walker** to review 3-4 NJ city ordinances to research training and enforcement costs and structures.

New Business

1. Board Bylaws and Roles:

- The board agreed on the need to draft bylaws specifying **member roles, quorum requirements, and procedures for replacing members**. Members also shared their individual backgrounds and goals for contributing to the board, including public education, outreach, fundraising, and business partnerships.

2. Fundraising Opportunity:

- **Ms. Seeland** noted a potential **partnership with School of Rock** to support fundraising efforts for the spay/neuter program, to be presented to **Dr. Minacapelli** at the next meeting.
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Announcements:

- None.

Adjournment:

- *Motion to adjourn:* Dr. Robinson
- *Seconded by:* Ms. Desire Walker
- *Meeting adjourned at:* 7:33 PM

Next Meeting:

- Monday, July 28, 2025 at 5:30 PM