CITY OF FOLLY BEACH
Chris Bizzell, Mayor

Folly Beach, SC 29439
www.cityoffollybeach.com
843-588-2447

Community Promotions Committee Meeting

August 31, 2026 | 4:00 PM
City Hall
21 Center Street
2nd Floor Council Chambers
Folly Beach, SC 29439

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   a. July 27, 2026, Meeting Minutes
3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**
4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. Updating CPC Guidelines
   b. Pet Helpers Request $5000
6. **OTHER BUSINESS**
7. **ADJOURNMENT**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance, alternative formats, ASL interpretation, or other accommodation, please contact the Municipal Clerk at 843-513-1833 during regular business hours at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Hearing devices are available upon request for those with hearing difficulties.

PUBLIC NOTICE: ALL MEDIA AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WERE NOTIFIED PURSUANT TO STATE LAW

CITY OF FOLLY BEACH
COMMUNITY PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE
July 27th, 2026
5:00pm
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 21 CENTER ST

Thom Piragnoli- Roger Rutledge- Bill Sypolt- Mary Catoe-Dave Miller

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call.** Heather called the meeting to order at 500pm. Thom, Roger Bill and Dave were in attendance as well as Half Rubber Heroes. Mary Catoe was not in attendance.

2. **Approval of Agenda**. The agenda was moved to be approved by Bill and seconded by Thom. Roger, Bill, and Thom and Dave voted yes to approve the agenda.

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**: Oct 6, 2025 minutes were approved. July 13th 2026 minutes were corrected. The total amount approved by CPC for The Folly Beach Historical Society was $3000. In one part of the paragraph there was a typo that said $2000. And that Thom's name was misspelled. Both errors will be fixed.

4. **New Business.**
   - **A.** Heather announced that a vote for chair and co-chair would be taken today before the presentation by Half Rubber Heroes. She asked if there was a nomination. Bill Sypolt offered to chair again. Thom seconded it. Thom, Roger, Bill and Dave all voted yes for Bill Sypolt to continue to chair the CPC. Mary was not in attendance to vote. No one was nominated or volunteered to be vicechair of CPC.
   - **B.** Fred Smith presented a request for $500 for EMT coverage for his Half Rubber Event taking place Sept 26 2026 7a-6p in front of the County Park in Folly Beach. CPC questioned if the request met the purpose of CPC. Thom, Roger, and Dave voted that it did meet the requirements of the CPC. Bill voted no. The history of Half Rubber was discussed and the cost for people to participate was also discussed. Fred explained it would cost $100 for a team (of three or more) to participate. CPC questioned if that was inclusive. Fred offered for it to be free for Folly residents but if they declined paying to register that they would not be eligible for a cash prize. That was agreeable to CPC. CPC then voted on the request of $500 by Half Rubber. And it was determined that only $250 would be a more appropriate amount to give. A motion for $250 to me given to Half Rubber was given by Bill and seconded by Roger. Thom, Roger, Dave and Bill voted yes to giving $250 to Half Rubber for the event.

5. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 524pm by Bill and seconded by Roger.

Community Promotions Committee Donation of Public Funds Application

Name of Organization: **Pet Helpers, Inc**

Purpose of Organization: **Pet Helpers' mission is to save all adoptable animals from euthanasia, provide low-cost preventative veterinary care to the public, provide education, and advocate for animal welfare. Through sheltering, adoption, foster care, medical support, community assistance, and education, Pet Helpers serves as a safe and compassionate resource for animals and residents across Folly Beach and the Lowcountry.**

Status of Organization: **Non-Profit**

Address of Organization: **1447 Folly Rd, Charleston SC 29412**

Telephone Number: Email Address: **development@pethelpers.org**

Contact Person: **Alexandria Phipps; Development Director**

Fund Request Amount: **$5,000**

Please state purpose for the fund request and how it meets the legal precedent stated in Application Criteria section on page 1.

Pet Helpers is requesting general operating support to strengthen animal welfare services that directly benefit the residents of Folly Beach. As the animal rescue and adoption organization located just outside Folly Beach on Folly Road, Pet Helpers provides a safe and appropriate place for stray, abandoned, surrendered, and at-risk animals from the area to receive care, shelter, medical attention, and a pathway toward adoption or reunification.

1. **What is the benefit to the residents of Folly Beach?**

The benefit to Folly Beach residents is direct and definite. Pet Helpers helps protect public health, public safety, and general welfare by providing humane care for stray, abandoned, and vulnerable animals connected to the Folly Beach community. When a loose, lost, sick, injured, or abandoned animal has nowhere safe to go, Pet Helpers provides shelter, food, medical care, behavior support, adoption services, and community assistance resources that reduce the burden on residents, city staff, public safety personnel, and local animal control resources.

This funding also supports Pet Helpers' upstream animal welfare work. By helping pet owners access resources, education, food support, and assistance before a crisis becomes abandonment, surrender, or neglect, Pet Helpers helps reduce the number of animals entering the shelter system. This creates a safer, cleaner, and more humane community for Folly Beach residents while ensuring animals are treated with care and dignity.

2. **Who are the primary beneficiaries, public or private?**

The primary beneficiaries are the public, including Folly Beach residents, visitors, neighborhoods, city staff, and the broader community that benefits from safe and humane animal welfare services. Residents benefit when stray or abandoned animals are removed from unsafe situations, when lost animals have a pathway to reunification, and when animals are cared for in an appropriate shelter setting rather than remaining loose, sick, injured, or unattended in the community.

While individual animals and pet owners also benefit, the larger public benefit is clear. Pet Helpers' services help reduce nuisance concerns, public safety risks, animal suffering, and avoidable strain on local resources. This funding supports a community-wide service that promotes the health, safety, and general welfare of Folly Beach.

3. **Is the benefit to the residents speculative or definite?**

The benefit is definite. Folly Beach residents benefit from having access to an established, professionally staffed animal welfare organization that can receive and care for animals in need, support adoption and reunification, and provide community assistance that helps prevent surrender or abandonment. Pet Helpers' location on Folly Road makes it a practical and accessible resource for Folly Beach residents and animals.

The benefit is not hypothetical. Without organizations like Pet Helpers, stray, abandoned, or medically vulnerable animals are more likely to remain in the community without proper care, creating concerns for public safety, animal welfare, and city resources. General operating support helps Pet Helpers maintain the staffing, supplies, facility operations, and animal care capacity needed to respond when these needs arise.

4. **What is the probability that the public interest of Folly Beach will be served in the end and to what extent?**

The probability that the public interest of Folly Beach will be served is high. Pet Helpers has served the Lowcountry for decades and has the staff, facility, volunteer base, foster network, and community partnerships needed to provide reliable animal welfare services. Funding will support ongoing operations that allow Pet Helpers to care for animals, respond to community need, support pet owners, and help reduce preventable shelter intake.

The extent of the public benefit is significant. General operating funds will help Pet Helpers continue providing a safe place for Folly Beach-area animals, reduce the number of lost, stray, abandoned, or surrendered animals without care, and support upstream services that help pet owners before they reach a point of crisis. This directly supports the public health, safety, general welfare, security, and contentment of Folly Beach residents by ensuring that animal welfare needs are addressed humanely, efficiently, and close to home.

<u>Application Special Conditions:</u>

Does this application require any special waivers that would affect Public Safety, Public Works, or City Staff? No

Are variances by City Council needed, such as street closings or the permission of the alcohol open container law? No

Application Signature: 

If approved, make check payable to: Pet Helpers, Inc

Mail:

Attn: Shauna Shackleton
Pet Helpers, Inc.
1447 Folly Rd.
Charleston, SC 29412