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District 5
Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6
Claudia Ordaz

District 7
Lily Limón

District 8
Cortney C. Niland

City Manager
Tommy Gonzalez

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes
February 8, 2017

1. A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the City Council Chambers and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dr. Guy Johnsen-Chairperson.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Peggy Edman	x	
Dr. Guy Johnsen	x	
Cecilia Carpio	x	
Betty Hoover	x	
Catherine Fagan	x	
Marcia Margherio	x	
Robert Melson	x	
Rep. Dr. Michiel Noe	x	
Regina Wagner		x
Barbara Candelaria	x	
Janet Nutt	x	

Animal Services staff present: Kurt Fenstermacher, Michele Anderson, Gina Ramirez, Janette Martinez and Maribel Karisch

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. **Reading and approval of minutes**
Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC January 11, 2017 minutes.

Committee members were asked if there were any questions or revisions.

Motion made by Robert Melson and seconded by Dr. Michiel Noe to accept the January 11, 2017.

Kurt Fenstermacher – Interim Director
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www.elpasotexas.gov

"Delivering Outstanding Services"



Ayes: Dr. Guy Johnsen, Cecilia Carpio, Marcia Margherio, Dr. Michiel Noe, Robert Melson, Catherine Fagan, Janice Nutt, Peggy Edman, Betty Hoover

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. Chairman Remarks

Dr. Guy Johnsen mentioned that speakers will be allowed to comment on any of new business agenda items and call to public. They will be limited to speak for 3 minutes per topic. The time can be extended if one of the committee members wants to ask questions or have a conversation. The chairman has the right to interrupt and redirect the conversation if it goes off topic. ASAC will continue to sent letters of invitation and continue to email the rescue groups to encourage participation on attending ASAC monthly meetings.

4. Reports of Special Committees, Animal Services, Rescue Groups and Shelters

a. *Free Roaming Cats-*

Regina Wagner was not present

b. *Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Ownership*

Barbara Candelaria gave an update on the "Avoid the Spring Fling" campaign.

c. *Rescue Agency/Limited Shelter Report*

No reports

d. *Animal Services Monthly Operations and Statistics Report*

Kurt Fenstermacher gave an update of the live release rate for the month of January 2017 which was 78.18%. The live release rate for dogs was 74.90% and 86.86% for cats. The total FYTD live release rate is 66.88%.

Kurt will prepare a 3 year per month intake report and also get some background on the *Lost In Care* animals from the Shelter Animals Count report for next month's meeting.

The Texas Humane Legislative Network is pushing to pass two bills which are: Strengthen the Texas tethering law and Animal cruelty laws. The other item is a Reporting Requirement which could require shelters and releasing agencies to report data through a monthly report such as the Shelter Animals Count for the public to view.



The shelter sally port is still under construction and will be completed by February 17th. The remodeling of the front entrance will be completed by mid April.

Two representatives from Best Friends visited the shelter for the Community Cats Apprenticeship. Animal Services was the second shelter to be visited out of five other shelters

Low cost vaccination clinics held at the shelter will be offering vaccination, microchip and registrations for \$24.00. They will be held at the shelter by appointment starting on February 20th.

Kurt thanked Michele Anderson and Ramon Herrera for all their hard work in preparing the Firefighters and Furry Friends Calendars.

Grant applications have been submitted for the Maddie's Fund Innovation Grant for \$5000.00 and Petco Fund for \$150,000.00

Animal Services will be welcoming Dr. Hagler on March 6th as the third fulltime Vet. Dr. Clark started as the contract vet on February 1st. Interview for the Community Program Manager will on Friday, February 10th

Animal Control Officers started canvassing neighborhoods on February 8th in effort to spread awareness and education with brochures on pet responsibility.

Animal Services is looking to partner with Project Vida who already offers community services centers in 5 communities. Officers will also be canvassing Chamizal and Segundo Barrio neighborhoods.

A new on-line program for animal related offenses will be offered on PAWedu.com, to help promote animal welfare education.

City Council approved the Inter-local agreement with Ft. Bliss and now Animal Services has the ability to bill for those animals brought to the shelter. The inter-local agreement with the county was also approved and includes the community cats program.

The January PAWCAST was presented by Michele Anderson which received applause from committee members and public.

5. Call to the public

Public member Linda Krasowski mentioned that she has seen some improvements at Animal Services, however the website needs more reports and information for public viewing. She suggested developing reports using Asilomar and to look at the types of reports the San Antonio Animal Services posts on their website.

6. New Business-Main Discussion of Meeting

- f. Update and discussion with the EPPD Criminal Investigations Division and Animal Services Field Supervisor on process of suspected animal abuse/neglect throughout the city.**



Detective Acosta gave a presentation on Cruelty of Animals. She explained that under section 42.09 of the Texas Penal Code, animal cruelty is defined by the following actions: torturing an animal, not providing food, care, or shelter, abandonment, killing, injuring or poisoning an animal etc. Animal Cruelty was not considered a felony under Texas Law before *Loco Law* that went into effect in September 1, 2001. Animal cruelty is now considered a felony and punishable by a \$10,000.00 fine and/or from two to ten years in prison. Since January 1, 2016, animal abuse cases are required to be reported to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) by all U.S. police departments. The system is used to report the detailed circumstances surrounding a specific crime. There is great evidence that people who abuse animals were more likely to commit violent crimes against people. Study's have shown that when animal abuse starts in childhood and goes without intervention, it will lead to criminal acts against people. Detective Acosta presented the number of animal abuse cases in El Paso: 2014 (2,818), 2015 (2,925), 2016 (3,223). She also mentioned the importance on reporting animal cruelty as soon as possible and to follow up on the situation. Barbara Candelaria suggested having the PAR Officers make presentations to elementary students on animal cruelty. Detective Acosta expressed that the way ASAC can help, is by mentioning the concern to City Council and the City Manager. Sgt. Zamudio mentioned that they would like to continue attending the monthly ASAC meetings to present updates on their research. Dr. Johnsen suggested meeting with Kurt to prepare a position statement or creating a website. Linda Krasowski and Ken Margherio suggested presenting the data to City Council for support. The presentation will be forwarded to ASAC members upon approval.

a. Discussion and action on Ad hoc Community Cats Committee

Two of *Best Friends* representatives made a site visit at the shelter for potential funding and mentoring. Dr. Johnsen expressed that it was a privilege. The specific topic presented was community cats. The Ad hoc committee had a meeting on February 1st and had a long discussion on all the information gathered within the last few months including information obtained from *Best Friends*. The committee agreed having Dr. Johnsen and Kurt Fenstermacher incorporate all collected information into a report which will be completed within 40 to 60 days. The report will then be approved by the committee and forwarded to ASAC and to the Regional Pet Overpopulation committee.



b. Discussion and action on Ad hoc Committee on Immunizations, Microchip Registrations, etc.

The committee met on February 2 to continue discussions on animal wellness and safety. On the request of the El Paso County Sheriffs Department, they are working on having a vaccination clinic in Sparks in collaboration with Project Vida to help address the needs of an underserved community. The Texas Dogs Unchained non-profit organization is also working in the Sparks community in the efforts to help pet owner provide humane care and to ultimately unchain their dogs. The committee will also distribute simple ID tags and collars in their continued objective in reuniting pet with their owners.

Marcia Margherio asked Barbara Candelaria to assist in helping with the public education outreach component. A date is pending for their next meeting.

Catherine Fagan inquired to have sent an email sent out about the upcoming events. The Ad hoc committee will present their report under the Reports of Special Committees of the agenda.

c. Discussion and action on Ad hoc Committee on Regional Pet Over-Population

Catherine Fagan mentioned that the committee met on January 25th and discussed possible succession plans. The plan depends on the number of vacancies that ASAC needs to fill. They are continuing to gather information so the committee can move forward and have a chair in the coming months. The committee is asking for names from the public on who might be interested in becoming committee members. As part of their research, the committee is presently trying to find out how large the unsterilized population is by conducting surveys with vets and rescue groups, the estimated cost of sterilizing the large population and find ways to get the public aware and involved on spaying/neutering their pets. A package with all the information gathered will then be passed on to the new chair to take action. The size of the committee will be left for the new chairperson to decide. The current members of the committee are Catherine Fagan, Betty Hoover, Dr. Alana Canupp and Kurt Fenstermacher.

d. Discussion and action on status of the 501c3

Camilo Jimenez, board member of *El Paso Animal Shelter Foundation*, gave a presentation on the progress of the Foundation. The foundation was created as a vital step in Animal Services becoming a "No Kill" shelter. To fulfill the foundations objectives, other city non-profit organization assisted in drafting the by-laws. In December 16, 2016 the Foundation officially became a non-profit organization in Texas. The foundation's website is fully operational



and other social media components such as Facebook will be ready by early March 2017. In order to accept donations while the IRA process is complete, the Foundation partnered with the El Paso Community Foundation. The final paperwork process will be complete early February and the *El Paso Animal Shelter Foundation* should be able to accept donations.

e. Discussion and action on the update of the Avoiding the Spring Fling Campaign

Barbara Candelaria explained that she has been receiving responses via phone and email from participating vets. She also has a group of students who graduated from the Clint vet tech program that are interested in assisting the participating vets with spaying and neutering. She gave a Thank You to Regina Wagner for all her contributions, to Dr. Johnsen for reaching out to the EPVMA and to Dr. Noe for placing the *Avoid the Spring Fling* flyer in his newsletter. She is also in contact with several television stations to assist in promoting the campaign: FOX 14, Channels 4, 7 and 9. A list of the final count of the participating vets will be ready by February 20th. Animal Services will assist in furnishing the flyers and Boy Scott groups will help in distributing them.

7. Motion was made by Robert Melson and seconded by Catherine Fagan to adjourn the February 8, 2017 meeting at 7:47 pm.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the A.S.A.C. Chairman, is written over a horizontal line.