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Tommy Gonzalez

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes

March 8, 2017

1. A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the City Council Chambers and was called to order at 6:04 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 February 8, 2017 minutes.

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

Motion was made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Robert Melson to accept the February 8, 2017 minutes.

Kurt Fenstermacher – Interim Director
5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso, Texas 79906 | (915) 212-7297
www.elpasotexas.gov

"Delivering Outstanding Services"



Ayes: Dr. Guy Johnsen, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Catherine Fagan, Janice Nutt, Barbara Candelaria, Betty Hoover

Nays: None

Abstain: Regina Wagner

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 committee members wish to ask questions or have a conversation. The chairman has the right to interrupt and redirect the conversation if it goes off topic.

He also mentioned that Representative Dr. Noe and City Council presented a Proclamation for World Spay Day on February 28, 2017. Dr. Guy Johnsen and Kurt Fenstermacher were there to accept the Proclamation.

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

a. Free Roaming Cats-

Regina Wagner wanted to clarify that any list of information that the government has is subject to public record requests. It is not advisable for the city to collect names and locations for colonies and colony caregivers because the information will eventually become public knowledge. In Florida, a number of colonies were destroyed after anti-TNR groups requested their locations through a public records request.

There was not a TNR clinic in February, however a clinic for 50 cats is scheduled for next Saturday, March 18, 2017.

She also mentioned that a group of 10 students from Montwood Middle School are preparing for the first Lego League Robotics competition with the help of their sponsors Sandy Brandon and Ray Bonilla. They won first place at UTEP and in April they are headed to the World Festival in Houston. The group will be presenting the City of El Paso cat overpopulation project, the robot missions, the core values and robot design presentations. Dr. Johnsen suggested having the group give ASAC their competing presentation. Regina explained that the group will be giving their presentation to City Council as well.



b. *Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Ownership*

Barbara Candelaria gave an update on the "Avoid the Spring Fling" campaign. Kurt Fenstermacher and Michele Anderson were guests on the radio station 92.3 *The FOX* last Thursday, promoting the Avoid the Spring Fling campaign. Flyers were updated with the extra participating Vet. The campaign will run for 2 month; March and April. Kurt Fenstermacher thanked Barbara Candelaria for getting them on the radio. Barbara is still working with some of the televisions stations and some local businesses that are posting the campaign flyers on their Facebook pages. Several volunteers will be helping in distributing the flyers.

c. *Community Cat Ad hoc Committee*

Dr. Johnsen scheduled a meeting with Kurt Fenstermacher for next week to create the report on the Community Cat Ad hoc Committee to present to ASAC.

d. *Immunizations, Microchips, Registration, etc. Ad hoc Committee*

The committee met on March 7th to discuss two upcoming events. On March 19th, they will have a Grand Vaccination Clinic in Sparks. They will be providing 1000 free Parvo/Distemper vaccines, sponsored by the local Pet's Barn. Handy Dandy Mobile Vet will be offering rabies vaccinations for cats and dogs. They will be providing free leashes, collars, ID tags and food curtesy of Pet's Barn. On March 23rd the committee will be participating in an educational workshop hosted by *Project Vida* to spread awareness on animal wellness to county residences. Marcia Margherio thanked the Ad Hoc committee members for their participation.

e. *Rescue Agency/Limited Shelter Report*

Connie Jimenez from Golden Retriever gave a brief report on the number of adoptions: in 2015 they had 189 adoptions, 2016 they had 217 adoptions. She mentioned how happy she was with the efficiency process with transfers and partnerships. She also expressed that through the awesome leadership of interim director Kurt Fenstermacher, there has been amazing progress at Animal Services and she hopes it continues.

f. *Animal Services Monthly Operations and Statistics Report*

Kurt Fenstermacher gave an update of the live release rate for the month of February 2017 which was 77.49%. The euthanasia rate was 18.94%. The live release rate for dogs was 75% and 83.13% for cats. The total FYTD live release rate is 68.64% and the CYTD is 77.84%.

After comparing the numbers of intakes in February of 2015, 2016 and 2017, there was a slight fluctuation decrease for dogs, however the decrease for



cats was more significant. In February 2017, there were about 75 to 100 more return to owner pets that were either tagged or micro chipped compared to February 2016. Field Operations returned 19% of animals out in the field. There were 285 cats that went through the Community Cat program in February.

Kyla Young (Adoption Coordinator) presented to ASAC on the Adoption Program. The adoption program started on January 1, 2016 which has made it much more convenient to have different pricing promotions. The program is using the open adoption program. This type of contract is more conversation oriented and the only requirement is being 18 years old with an ID. The program was first staffed with an adoption supervisor and 4 counselors in FY16, a contract off-site coordinator and 2 adoption counselors in FY17 and in FY18 the contract off-site coordinator will be a full-time position and 3 more counselor positions will be added. The adoption counselors are tasked with talking to potential adopters, showing animals, processing paper work, answering phone calls and emails. The hours of operation for the adoption office are 11 am to 5:30 pm everyday. Their direct line is 915-212-8705. They have easy viewing of animals in multiple websites: Petpoint-Petango and EPAnimalServices.com. The standards price for an adoption is \$65.00 which includes spay/neuter, microchip, age appropriate vaccines/license, name tag and 30 day free health insurance. If the pets were to become ill, they can be taken back to the shelter to be seen by the vet within 2 weeks of adoption. The adoption program has had several Promotional Events, however 180 adoptions on one day were through the National Clear the Shelter event. Their adoption partners are Petco, Petsmart and Best Friends. The off-site adoptions coordinator will be out at different locations 3 to 4 times a week in order to be closer to residents. Monthly average adoptions for 2016 were 381 dogs and 130 cats. There was a 9.5% of adoption returns for 2016 and 6% so far for 2017. The reasons for returns are health, behavior, landlord issues, transfers and moving. Feline Fridays is also a great promotional event in which the volunteers have had a huge impact on the success of the adoption program.

Michele Anderson presented the PawCast for February which received applause from the ASAC members and public that attended.

5. Call to the public

Member Mary and Melissa directors of Mutt Love Rescue Group mentioned that their group started in May 2016. Melissa suggested providing citation statistics for breeders permits and litter permits. They are concerned with the backyard breeding which contributes to the over-population and disease problem. They expressed that they have a great working relationship with Animal



Services.

6. **New Business-Main Discussion of Meeting**

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

Catherine Fagan mentioned that the committee had met and after several revisions a set of 10 survey questions was prepared. The questionnaires were sent out with a cover letter and self stamped envelope to local vets last Saturday. The cover letter explained why they were receiving the questionnaires. The survey questions will be given to clients with pets that are unsterilized and would be asked whether they would take advantage of a low or free spay/neuter. The purpose of the survey is to get an idea of how many unsterilized animals are out there. After returning all the surveys, the results will be tallied and presented to the committee for further discussion.

The Rescue groups will also be receiving a questionnaire for the rescued animals that are unsterilized.

Catherine Fagan will be stepping down from the Ad hoc Committee and the ASAC committee. This is her last meeting. Amanda Herrera from Pug rescue will be replacing Catherine Fagan in the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee.

b. **Discussion and action on status of the 501c3 (El Paso Shelter Foundation)**
Dr. Noe was not present

c. **Follow up to last month's Detective Acosta and family resource center representative for a 10-15 minutes presentation on family victims and their companion animals**

Retired detective Terry Chavirra from the Family Resource Center is an advocate for the center. The center handles domestic and sexual violence cases. The victims are counseled, have therapy and support groups. The shelter is for victims that don't have anywhere else to go. The shelter averages about 79 people per day. Between 18%-48% women victims hesitate to leave their aggressors for fear of leaving their pets, unfortunately the shelter does not accommodate pets. They have a partnership with the Humane Society to hold pets for the victims. The Humane Society has also helped with microchips and vaccines. The new shelter plan allows building a couple of kennels to hold pets. She is also looking at cases to make the judges aware that the victims have pets. Domestic abusers use the pets as a control toward their victims and are most likely being abused as well she added.



d. Discussion and action on status of shelter inspections under Chapter 823 of the Texas Health and Safety codes

Since the meeting in October 2016, the committee voted on automatic adding the status of the shelter inspections to the agenda every year in March. Regina Wagner named the shelters that are in compliance with the inspections under the Chapter 823 of the Texas Health and Safety codes.

Dr. Johnsen suggested sending a gentle inspection reminder in January to all shelters. Catherine Fagan agreed on sending out a letter as a reminder. Robert Melson added that the inspections are each shelter's responsibility.

Dr. Johnsen requested having this item placed as a continued agenda item in April for further discussion. Regina Wagner suggested inviting Dr. Waldrup to attend next month's meeting for a thorough explanation of the inspections under Chapter 823.

Betty Hoover will be retiring at the end of May 2017, and being her last meeting, Chairman, Dr. Guy Johnsen thank her for her dedicated service as a member on the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee. He also thanked Catherine Fagan for her service as an ASAC member.

7. Motion was made by Robert Melson and seconded by Catherine Fagan to adjourn the March 8, 2017 meeting at 7:42 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. The signature is stylized and appears to be "Guy Johnsen".