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Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes
May 10, 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	
Marcia Margherio	x	
Robert Melson	x	
Regina Wagner	x	
Barbara Candelaria	x	
Janice Nutt		x
Vacant		
Vacant		
Vacant		

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 March 8, 2017 minutes.

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

Motion made by Robert Melson and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to accept the March 8, 2017.

Ayes: Dr. Guy Johnsen, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Barbara Candelaria, Regina Wagner, Cecilia Carpio

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

"Delivering Outstanding Services"



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.

He also mentioned that Kurt Fenstermacher is recovering from surgery. He is doing well and is expected to return to work on Monday, May 15, 2017.

The Annual Report was submitted to city council and Mayor.

Mayorial appointees, Betty Hoover and Representative Dr. Noe resigned from ASAC. Peggy Edman also resigned last night as her term is about to end in June. There are two other members whose terms are about to expire as well.

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

a. Free Roaming Cats-

Regina Wagner mentioned in her report that Sun City Cats and Animal Services had a TNR event at the Socorro Clinic. There were 99 cats that had surgery. She expressed how Dr. Christensen, Karen Burden (Community Cats Coordinator) and Sun City Cats volunteers did an excellent job.

The Montwood Leggo Robotics Team that went to Houston in April to compete attended the TNR events and watched surgeries. They also learned about the importance of spaying and neutering from Dr. Christensen.

Sun City Cats has some concerns regarding the shelter: new cats are being placed in existing colonies, offer picking up kittens, traps should not be set during temperatures above 85 degrees, she will give more information on next month's meeting.

Sun City Cats has been receiving calls regarding traps left unsupervised. Those trapping should follow proper protocol. Another concern that Sun City Cats has, is who will step in to do the monthly TNR events since Dr. Christensen out.

Regina Wagner suggested having the Animal Services website include information on not trapping without a surgical appointment. Since there are no surgeries on weekends, trapped cats cannot stay in traps for 24 hrs. Sun City Cats wishes Dr. Christensen a speedy recovery and thanked the volunteers and care givers.

b. Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Ownership



Barbara Candelaria thanked the Vets that participated in the “Avoid the Spring Fling” campaign and she hopes that the efforts continue. She was able to get the radio spots, received emails, phone calls and visited some of the receptionist at the vet’s office as part of the marketing for the campaign. According to the receptionist, there were a lot of calls and since Catherine Fagan was in charge of the statistics for the campaign, she has the tally count. She suggested having a marketing program for fosters, volunteers and summer internships for pre-vet students since the largest shelter population is during the summer. She stressed that there is a huge need for fosters at the Humane Society and Sun City Cats.

Barbara also suggested having volunteers know the animals in order to point them to the right adopter. This will help reduce the numbers of adoption returns. She also suggested writing notes about the animal behind the kennel card.

c. *Community Cat Ad hoc Committee*

Dr. Johnsen mentioned that the committee’s report was delayed due to Kurt Fenstermacher’s sickness. They are very close in finalizing the report. Dr. Johnsen will contact Kurt to set up a meeting as soon as he returns to work. Once the report is finalized, it will be presented to the Regional Animal Over-Population Ad Hoc Committee.

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

Marcia Margherio mentioned that in March 2, 2017 the committee met with Sandra Garcia from Project Vida to plan for a vaccination clinic in Sparks. The clinic was held from 11 am to 4 pm with the help from El Paso County Sheriffs’ office. There were 825 free parvo/distemper vaccinations administered. Collars, leashes, Pet ID and candy filled eggs were also give out.

She also mentioned that with a lot of hard work the committee helped over 2000 pet get vaccinated with the combination of the 3 clinics. Future clinics will be determined by the availability of resources.

Robert Melson inquired about the committees plan per the strategic goals. Marcia Margherio explained that the committee wanted to be an action committee. Dr. Johnsen gave Kudos to the committee for having less parvo/distemper at the shelter. Marcia has proven that her actions have worked, he added. Dr. Johnsen suggested having the discussion on the strategic goals as an agenda item.

e. *Rescue Agency/Limited Shelter Report*

None



f. ***Animal Services Monthly Operations, Enforcement statistics and VIP update***

Hugo Navarro introduced Adan Parra, Michele Anderson and Esty Molina. Adan Parra presented the statistics report: In March there were a total of 1785 animals. In a 3-year comparison, in 2015 there were 2607 animals and in 2016 there were 2130. For March 2017, intake was down 21%, owner surrenders were down 64% and euthanasia requests down 86% from March 2016. Outcomes for March 2017 were 1817. Adoptions increased by 17%, transfers by 35% and shelter euthanasia went down 40%. March live release rate was 72.76% and euthanasia rate was 23.53%.

In April there were 2054 intakes. Strays were down 22%, Owner surrenders were down 41% and owner requested euthanasia was down 81%. The outcomes for April were 1656. The return to owners were up 21% from 2016 and shelter euthanasia was down 56%. The live release rate for April was 77.82% and euthanasia rate was 16.94%. The rate by calendar year is 76.61% and by Fiscal year, the rate is 70.33%.

There were 13 citations issued for selling animals without a permit and 60 citations for no litter permits.

Hugo Navarro mentioned that the Officers are canvassing the neighborhoods door to door educating the public. The officers are also updating microchip information out in the field and are educating more than issuing out citations. Rose Janice, volunteer coordinator, gave a presentation on the Animal Services volunteer program. Applications for volunteering are available at 5001 Fred Wilson or from the website: www.elpasotexas.gov/animalservices. Anyone 17 years and older can volunteer with a background check. There are also opportunities for those younger than 17. The requirement is that they must be accompanied by a parent and guardian who is also a volunteer. The program also offers "The Kitty Reading Club" for the 8 to 13 age group.

Between August 2015 and May 2016 the program, had 1008 volunteers. The Program also had Community Outreach and Partnerships which include: The County "Purpose Driven" Program, Jefferson High School Silva Magnet Program, Clint ISD Veterinary Science Program, School Career fairs and others. Since January to April 2017, they are 289 volunteers that have attended the orientations and there are currently 588 active members. The Program has saved the city 166,450.90 in 2016 and so far 37,976.80 in 2017. Michele Anderson introduced the May Paw Cast. She also mentioned the Paw Cast is being featured more often on the City 5. She invited the ASAC Members to attend the Puppy Shower on May 20th.



5. **Call to the public**

Member from the public William Gibson expressed his support for Sun City Cats. He also thanked them for all their help and added that the TNR program should be expanded throughout El Paso County.

Member from the public Terry Guerra who is a volunteer with Sun City Cats also expressed how Sun City Cats has changed her life. She has been educated on the over-population problem of cats in El Paso. She has her heart in helping the Humane Society and Animal Services achieve their goals.

Member of the public Vera Gibson mentioned how she was impressed with the TNR program, the Socorro Clinic and what Dr. Christensen has done for the Community Cats. Sun City Cats has helped her change her view about the unwanted cats.

Member of the public Cody Vaughn representing Shane Haggerty mentioned that he and Shane Haggerty are in support of the ASAC committee plans.

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

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

Item will be placed on the next month's agenda.

b. **Discussion and action on status of the 501c3**

Camilo Jimenez gave an update on the 501c3. He is currently an active board member of the El Paso Animal Shelter Foundation. He mentioned that they were waiting on legal to have the funds benefit the shelter goals. The Foundations has Instagram and twitter options. The website is live and donations can be made at EPASF.org.

c. **Discussion and action on the helter inspections under Chapter 823 of the Texas Health and Safety codes and development of an inspection Protocol**
Regina Wagner started the discussion by reading Section 823.001 and Section 823.003 from Item d of the Health and Safety Code. She mentioned that in August 2013, it was discussed that ASAC would follow up with the shelter inspections. In 2014, ASAC voted to have the inspection reports submitted to Animal Services and then forwarded to ASAC. In October 2016 two items were voted on: 1. inspection reports to be submitted to Animal Services then



Services then forwarded to ASAC. 2. To automatic add the status of the inspections to the agenda in February. She also mentioned the 5 shelter are compliant: Humane Society, Animal Services, Pet Guardian Angel, Animal Rescue League and Treasure Hearts and Barks. Dr. Johnsen suggested having a standardized process for the shelters inspections and Dr. Waldrup mentioned that ASAC could have a standardized process if they wanted to however Regina Wagner mentioned that since there are only 5 shelters, it should not be difficult to keep track of them. After much discussion, ASAC will make a courtesy call to the shelters to contact Dr. Walrup for the Z3 form and then ASAC will contact Dr. Waldrup for the inspections status of each shelter.

Motion was made by Regina Wagner and seconded by Barbara Candelaria to automatic add the status of the shelter compliance to the agenda in March.

Ayes: Dr. Johnsen, Robert Melson, Cecilia Carpio, Barbara Candelaria, Regina Wagner, Amanda Herrera, Marcia Margherio

Nays: None

Motion was made by Regina Wagner and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to find out the status of the shelter inspections by contacting Dr. Waldrup.

Ayes: Dr. Johnsen, Robert Melson, Cecilia Carpio, Barbara Candelaria, Regina Wagner, Amanda Herrera, Marcia Margherio

Nays: None

- d. Discussion on effect of breed perception and labeling dogs "PitBull"**
Marcia Margherio read a report on the dog most at risk for euthanasia; the Pit Bull. There are more Pitbulls in shelters than other breeds throughout the country. Many mixed breeds are labeled as Pit Bull mix and because of the labeling, many of these dogs are euthanized. By removing the labeling on the kennel cards, these dogs might have a better chance on being adopted. Marcia Margherio also suggested removing the labels on the website as this will improve the adoptions of these type of dogs. Adoption is crucial to live outcomes and removing the labels in shelters across the country will help. Adan Parra mentioned that PetPoint has a mix breed option. Dr. Johnsen inquired about whether this is something to consider at Animal Services. Hugo Navarro



mentioned that there has been talks about removing the Pitbull label from the kennel cards.

- e. **Discussion and action on updating the ASAC Guidebook**
Dr. Johnsen suggested having the ASAC guidebook revised.

Motion was made by Robert Melson and seconded Cecilia Carpio to update the ASAC guidebook.

Ayes: Dr. Johnsen, Robert Melson, Cecilia Carpio, Barbara Candelaria, Regina Wagner, Amanda Herrera, Marcia Margherio

Nays: None

Motion was made by Regina Wagner and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to include a list of the Shelters and Rescues along with name and phone number of the contacts.

Ayes: Dr. Johnsen, Robert Melson, Cecilia Carpio, Barbara Candelaria, Regina Wagner, Amanda Herrera, Marcia Margherio

Nays: None

- f. **Discussion and action on ASAC duties and the need to redefine and expand duties**

Motion was made by Marcia Margherio and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to table Item 6f for next month's meeting.

Ayes: Dr. Johnsen, Robert Melson, Cecilia Carpio, Barbara Candelaria, Regina Wagner, Amanda Herrera, Marcia Margherio

Nays: None

7. **Motion was made by Robert Melson and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to adjourn the March 8, 2017 meeting at 8:33 pm.**



Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Fenstermacher", is written over a horizontal line.