



## Department of Animal Services

**Mayor**  
Dee Margo

### City Council

*District 1*  
Peter Svarzbein

*District 2*  
Alexandra Annello

*District 3*  
Cassandra H. Brown

*District 4*  
Sam Morgan

*District 5*  
Dr. Michiel R. Noe

*District 6*  
Claudia Ordaz Perez

*District 7*  
Henry Rivera

*District 8*  
Cortney C. Niland

**City Manager**  
Tommy Gonzalez

### Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

#### Minutes June 14, 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
Dr. Guy Johnsen	x	
Janice Nutt		x
Cecilia Carpio	x	
Marcia Margherio	x	
Robert Melson	x	
Regina Wagner	x	
Barbara Candelaria	x	
Amanda Herrera	x	

Animal Services staff present: Kurt Fenstermacher, Valentine Garcia, Michele Anderson, 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 May 10, 2017 minutes.

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

**Motion was made by Robert Melson and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to accept the May 10, 2017 minutes.**

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



## Department of Animal 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 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.

Dr. Johnsen welcomed Kurt Fenstermacher back after his surgery.

He asked for help in putting the ASAC guidebook from Animal Services staff. A drafted format will be submitted within 60 to 90 days.

Dr. Noe is no longer on the ASAC committee but he is still working with the EPAS Foundation. Dr. Noe received a letter from legal on the agreement to have the availability to use city advertisement to receive donations.

The El Paso Veterinarian Medical Association created a first draft of "Pet Parent" Brochures which were distributed to the Humane Society and Animal Services to pass out to new adopters. The purpose of the brochures is to give the new owners a list of all El Paso Veterinarians for their specific regions and also includes a list of health needs for the new family member. The EPVMA will be producing a second draft of the brochure which will have a few minor changes.

Janice Nutt is taking care of her daughter and was not able to attend the meeting.

Dr. Johnsen also mentioned the several vacancies on ASAC and suggested to the members to connect with the new Council. The members whose terms will expire are: Marcia Margherio (District 2), Peggy Edman (District 3), Robert Melson (District 4), Cecilia Carpio (District 7) and two Mayoral appointments: Shelter and Representative.

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

#### ***a. Free Roaming Cats-***

Regina Wagner mentioned that Sun City Cats invited Elizabeth Holtz who is the legislative attorney for all animal organizations. During her stay, she was interviewed by channel 9 in which she stated that she in support of the Sun City Cats TNR program and some of the kittens that were up for adoption were featured in the segment. She thanked Elizabeth Holtz for insuring that all is done right for all the animals.



## Department of Animal Services

She also mentioned that Terry (volunteer) and Veronica (foster) were featured in the Community College Prospective in the efforts that the word gets out about the TNR program and to empower the community to help with the community cats.

She stressed on the importance of not removing kittens from their mothers. Sun City Cats empowers individuals to leave the kittens with their mothers, then trap and socialize. Mothers also need to be TNR. Volunteers have also been busy fostering this kitten season.

Sun City Cats are working closely with Animal Services to help with areas in need. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 59 cats had surgery and stressed not to trap without a surgical appointment. Regina also gave several tips on feeding and trapping cats during the summer.

**b. *Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Ownership***

Barbara Candelaria handed out the "Keep Pets out of Hot Cars" to committee members and Animal Services. She is still working on the Public Service Announcement. She is also working on a microchip campaign which was inspired by a pet named Max. Max had been lost for over a year and thanks to the staff at Johnsen's Clinic, owner information was obtained with the help of Redemption Animal Rescue. The dog will be transported to Florida. Marcia Margherio suggested having a "Check the Chip Date" on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**c. *Community Cat Ad hoc Committee***

Dr. Johnsen explained that the final report is still under review by committee members and will be submitted to ASAC on the next meeting.

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

Dr. Johnsen gave kudos to Marcia Margherio and her team for their efforts in making a difference in the community. Marcia submitted the final Ad hoc committee report to ASAC members. Marcia clarified her statement, that she is in support of microchipping.

**e. *Rescue Agency/Limited Shelter report***

None

**f. *Department of Animal Services Report***

Kurt Fenstermacher presented the statistics report: Live Release rate for the Fiscal Year was 70.80% and for calendar year from January to May



## Department of Animal Services

was 76.21%. The live release rate for dogs was 78.01% and for cats was 70.83%. He gave a comparison of where Animal Services was in a 3- year comparison of intakes and outcomes: In 2015 there were 2625, in 2016- 2525 and so far in 2017 there are 2662 intakes. Many cats are getting out through the Community Cats Program and Fosters. The Outcomes in the past 3 years were: in 2015 there were 2508, in 2016 there were 2273 and in 2017 there are 2288 outcomes.

Mutt Love has been transporting between 50-55 dogs. The live release rate for May was 74.62%.

An Off-site supervisor was hired late April. He is working on a consistent schedule and so far 111 animals have been adopted at several locations such as Petsmart, Petco, Petsbarn, City Parks, Farmer's Market and Fort Bliss. The new brochures by the EPVMA are being distributed at these events.

Last Sunday, Animal Services took part in the "Just One Day" National Campaign where no animals were euthanized in the shelter. An adoption event was also held that day and there were 180 adoptions with 89 of those went home that Sunday. It was Animal Services second successful year. Valentin Garcia gave a presentation on Fostering. The Department of Animal Services Foster program gives animals a chance to live and be loved in a foster home. The program also helps those animals that need extra time or attention such as if they are underage, sick or injured. The program provides the foster family with all the essentials such as food, formula, blankets, towels, crates, medical care. For anyone wanting to foster, they will receive one-on-one training, step by step guidance and will have 24-hour support line. Fostering help the shelter in that it opens up space to other animals, it gets the animals ready for adoption and it is a positive impact on the animal and rewarding experience for the caregiver. The program helps to save lives and reduce euthanasia. The number of fosters for May 2017 tripled. The program has helped adoptions increase by 70%, transfers by 35% and has reduced euthanasia by 40%.

### 5. Call to the public

Member of the public Linda Krasowski mentioned that she has seen all the new physical improvements from the last 2 years however she mentioned that the live release rate is not accurate. The live release rate becomes 45% with the removal of the community cats. She also mentioned that the elements of "No Kill" must be implemented and sustained, ASAC should ask for another formal review of the shelter, take a hands on approach and with the six new members in Council, ASAC should inform them of the Animal Welfare issues.



## Department of Animal Services

Member of the public Patricia Johnson representing the El Paso Animal Advocacy had several requests for Kurt Fenstermacher. She wanted to know if there was a report sent to City Council in regards to goals accomplished in the first year of the Task Force Reform, copies of the statistics, how many vets have been hired and/or resigned and asked whether Dr. Christensen was still working at Animal Services. Dr. Johnsen explained that Animal Services has three full time Veterinarians, one contracted and one volunteer. Dr. Johnsen is volunteering at Animal Services.

Member of the public Camilo Jimenez gave an update on the EPAS Foundation. The board is reviewing the agreement with the City and will return after making recommendations. He also mentioned Charlie, a dog that shot by arrows and whose medical treatment expenses were paid by the Foundation. The Foundation created a fund to cover medical expenses for similar situations.

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

#### **a. Discussion and action on the Regional Animal Over-Population Ad hoc Committee.**

The committee is not formed. This item will be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Member of the public Linda Krasowski suggested making the Socorro Clinic a priority once the committee is created.

#### **b. Discussion and action on ASAC duties and the need to redefine and expand duties**

Marcia Margherio read an essay on having ASAC expand their duties. She made several suggestions such as adding the compliance of the Texas law components to the ASAC mission, building working relationships with each member's representative, spent time at the shelter, actively work with city staff and have all the shelters and rescue groups be part of the Animal Shelter Count Report. She also suggested writing a letter to council to expand the ASAC duties and become an action committee and be able to assist Animal Services in reaching their goals. Regina Wagner disagreed on ASAC micromanaging and Dr. Johnsen suggested submitting the essay to members to review.

Member of the public Ken Margherio mentioned that it doesn't matter if ASAC is an advisory committee or not, the committee doesn't have to have authority to be able to influence the community on animal welfare issues and the best strategic plan ASAC can have is to support Animal Services in accomplishing the objectives they have established. Dr.





## Department of Animal Services

Johnsen agreed that ASAC needs to get out in the community to spread the ASAC message.

Kurt Fenstermacher invited the ASAC members to the Barking Bar-B-Que event that will be held on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**c. Discussion and action on Re-visitation of the strategic Plan for ASAC**

The discussion on revisiting the ASAC strategic plan was brought up and the committee will take a look as to where the committee wants to go. Cecilia Carpio suggested looking at the plan after all the new members have been appointed. Regina Wagner suggested not delaying and having the current members on the committee start coming up with ideas. Robert Melson suggested concentrating on the larger problem of the Pet over-population. Dr. Johnsen suggested placing the item on next month's meeting.

**Motion:** Robert Melson motioned and Cecilia Carpio seconded not to have a strategic planning committee and we will go ahead and have this as our alone strategic process for the up-coming year is the Regional Pet Over-Population problem.

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

**Nays:** None

7. Motion was made by Cecilia Carpio and seconded by Regina Wagner to adjourn the June 14, 2017 meeting at 8:17 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.