



CITY CLERK DEPT.  
2018 OCT 13 PM 4:30

## Department of Animal Services

Mayor  
Dee Margo

### Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes  
August 8, 2018

#### City Council

District 1  
Peter Svarzbein

District 2  
Alexsandra Anello

District 3  
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4  
Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5  
Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6  
Claudia Ordaz Perez

District 7  
Henry Rivera

District 8  
Cissy Lizarraga

City Manager  
Tommy Gonzalez

#### 1. Call to Order- Establish Quorum

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the Humane Society of El Paso conference room and was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chair Ken Margherio.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Amanda Herrera		X
Dr. Guy Johnsen	X	
Ken Margherio	X	
Charlie Moreno	X	
Claudia Ordaz Perez	X	
Edith Prado	X	
Maria Ramirez		X
Julie Rutledge	X	
G. Eric Stoltz	X	
Regina Wagner	X	

Animal Services staff present: Paula Powell, Misty Monteros, Ramon Herrera, Michele Anderson

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on the approval of the May 9, 2018 minutes.

**Guy Johnsen motioned to accept the May 9, 2018 minutes; Charlie Moreno seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.**

#### 3. Chairman Remarks

Ken Margherio congratulated the Humane Society on an extremely well done and successful telethon.

He stressed on the importance of members' attendance due to their list of goals requiring a tremendous amount of work.

Paula Powell – Director  
5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso, Texas 79906 | (915) 212-7297

*"Delivering Outstanding Services"*



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The agenda's structure correlates to each strategic objective.

He is also requesting an educational segment at each meeting to include animal welfare and best practices. The first segment will start in September with the YTD statistics from DAS and other Texas cities.

4. **Reports-Support the City of El Paso's Initiative to Reach and Sustain a 90% or Greater Live-Release Rate by 2020.**

**A. Member- Free Roaming Cats-**

Regina Wagner expressed how TNR is the only effective approach for the stray and feral cats. She also emphasized on the importance of educating the community on the struggles of the community cats that were once indoor cats. She received several calls on how county and city officers are giving false information and stressed the importance of El Paso's laws supporting TNR. In August, there were 300 slots for cats with 28 surgeries performed on the morning of August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Subcommittee**

None

**C. Rescue Agency/ Limited Shelter Report**

Julie Rutledge thanked the community for the telethon support. This was the biggest donation intake compared to last year.

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Paula Powell started her report with the July statistics by comparing the intakes and outcomes of 2016, 2017 and 2018, both were slightly higher than last year. She explained that she was amazed at the increase of return to owners at 24% for July. The Foster program has currently a total of 534 fosters out, making the program a key to the live saving mission at Animal Services. The Fiscal year LRR is 82.66% and the Animal Shelter Count LRR is 82.49%. The euthanasia rate is at 14.04%. She closed by expressing how proud she was on the RTO percentage rate for July. Michele Anderson spoke on the tweet from Nathan Winograd. He gave kudos to Animal Services and the Humane Society on their combine efforts to make El Paso no kill. Michele Anderson also presented the Paw Cast for July.

5. **Call to the public**

None

6. **Main Agenda**

**A. Research and Advise on Effective Ordinances and Policies to Improve Overall Health, Welfare and Safety for Animals**

**A1. *Discussion and Action on Status of the Animal Abuse Registry***

Paula Powell's explained that the Animal Abuse Registry follows Goal 8. The purpose for the Registry is to require animal abusers to register with local law enforcement. By having this information available, employers and animal shelters can be aware of animal abusers. Animal shelters will also know if cities they are transferring animals to, have



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policies on animal abusers. Animal services recommendations are: to have animal abusers on the registry for up to 10 years after conviction date, retailers and shelters will require adopter to sign an affidavit and the registry will have the abusers' names, photos, and addresses. The registry is still far from implementation. The Animal Cruelty Unit is fairly new and there is still work in defining the transition of the Animal Protection Officers' role from enforcement to engagement in the community. So far, there are a handful of convictions in El Paso and with these convictions, the registry is needed. Animal Services will continue to gather feedback through community meetings. There is currently no time-line for these meetings.

**Guy Johnsen motioned to draw up a resolution on the implementation of an Animal Abuser Registry in the city of El Paso Texas. Claudia Ordaz-Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.**

### *A2. Discussion and Update on Community Meetings for Proposed Pet Grooming Ordinance*

Paula Powell read from the current Grooming Ordinance. Throughout the community meetings, most participants were in support of Animal Services recommendations. Individual groomers receive permit and background check, establishments will require pets to have vaccination, microchip and license, have a city certification, groomer shops must have certified employees, surveillance cameras and report all accidents within 48 hours were some of the items discussed. During the second session, participants recommended refining the Animal Services recommendations.

Irresponsible pet ownership was one of the largest concerns at this meeting. On the last meeting, the groups gave their final revised ordinances. The ordinance committee will work on organizing and analyzing the input, make the final recommendations for the ordinance change, and draft the ordinance by September.

There were questions on the certification training and Charlie Moreno suggested having the wording clarified on the ordinance. Tiffany Aguirre and Lisa Davis commented on the item.

### **B. Promote Education and Engagement in Animal Health and Welfare**

#### *B1. Discussion and Action on a Resolution Opposing Development in Northeast El Paso Mountain for the Well-Being and Safety of Wildlife.*

Josette Flores clarified the ASAC statutory Ordinance duties in Title 7 (Chapter 7.28.060). She explained that ASAC needs council to request that the committee looks at this particular item. She added that the item may be addressed in the call to the public, but no discussion nor action can be taken. Edith Prado suggested including the public comment in the minutes, however public comment details are not included in the minutes. Guy



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Johnsen explained that part of their duties is to have oversight of shelters, which do have wildlife and are part of the shelter management process. Josette explained that ASAC can change the wording in Title 7 to address more than companion animals. The item was tabled for September's agenda.

**Guy Johnsen motioned to delete item B1; Edith Prado seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.**

7. **Future Agenda Item**

Julie Rutledge- *Tour of Humane Society*

George Eric Stoltz- *A resolution of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee opposing the Development of Natural Open Space in North West El Paso, to protect the health of and well-being of companion animals in the region.*

8. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM

**Charlie Moreno motioned to adjourn; Guy Johnsen seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.**

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Moreno", is written over the line following the "Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman" text.