



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

*Dedicated to Outstanding Customer Service for a Better Community*

SERVICE SOLUTIONS SUCCESS



## Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

### Minutes

January 8, 2014

1. A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the Conference Room at the Animal Services Shelter and was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Dr. Roger Freund, Chairperson.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Peggy Edman	X	
Dr. Roger Freund	X	
Patricia Gonzalez	X	
Betty Hoover	X	
Linda Krasowski	X	
Marcia Margherio	X	
Robert Melson	X	
Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly		X
Janice Nutt	X	
Regina Wagner	X	

Environmental Services staff present: Kurt Fenstermacher, Luis Rios, Daniel Marin, Elda R. Heffner, Rose Janice, Larry Brunt, Sandra Pellegrini.

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC December 11, 2013 minutes

Committee members were asked if there were any questions or revisions, Regina Wagner requested to remove the word cultural from item number 6a and leave only the word issues.

### Mayor

Oscar Leeser

### City Council

#### District 1

Ann Morgan Lilly

#### District 2

Larry Romero

#### District 3

Emma Acosta

#### District 4

Carl L. Robinson

#### District 5

Dr. Michiel R. Noe

#### District 6

Eddie Holguin Jr.

#### District 7

Lily Limón

#### District 8

Cortney C. Niland

### City Manager

Joyce A. Wilson

Ellen A. Smyth, Director

Environmental Services Department

7968 San Paulo Dr. | El Paso, TX 79907 | (915)621-6700 | Fax (915) 621-6711

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**EL PASO.IT'SALLGOOD.**

**Motion made by Robert Melson and seconded by Betty Hoover to accept the December 11, 2013 minutes with corrections.**

**Ayes:** Peggy Edman, Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Regina Wagner.

**Nays:** None.

3. Discussion and action on Sub-committees' reports:

- a. Free Roaming Cats – Chairperson Regina Wagner provided a report on the status of the current activities of the group. Ms. Wagner presented to the committee an informational pamphlet to be distributed, which will be available on both English and Spanish. Ms. Wagner and thank the present for all the donations made to Sun City Cats, and asked Larry Brunt if any changes have been made to TNR protocols. Mr. Brunt advised that the same protocols are in place, and that the forms provided by Sun City Cats are still in use. Betty Hoover inquired about items that could be used as deterrents for cats.

**Motion: No action taken.**

- b. Public Education, Outreach, and Responsible Pet Ownership  
Chairperson Patricia Gonzalez advised there were no education activities during the holidays and asked if someone from Environmental Services would be able to visit authorities in a no-kill city to monitor their activities in order to produce a report. Robert Melson advised that in the past discussion was made about Environmental Services would be sending personnel to San Antonio; Kurt Fenstermacher advised on plans to visit San Antonio in February. Ms. Gonzalez inquired about an educational program at Fort Bliss and inquired if it could be repeated. Kurt Fenstermacher advised that



Environmental Services has no jurisdiction in Fort Bliss. Ms. Gonzalez inquired the type of follow-up done on animals who are adopted, Kurt Fenstermacher advised that follow-up is done by Humane Society counselors. Betty Hoover added that screening is done for all adoptions. Dr. Freund and Marcia Margherio advised that information for pet owners is available at the ASPCA website.

**Motion: No action taken.**

4. Discussion and action on status of signs for city buses and cost of an electronic billboard. Kurt Fenstermacher introduced the public information officer for Environmental Services, Daniel Marin who showed samples of the signs that had been printed and discussed their design and content. Advised that they will be posted inside city buses and on benches. Corrections to poster were pointed out by ASAC members, Mr. Marin advised he would work on making those corrections. Linda Krasowski informed the committee that she did her own research on the cost of the billboard and provided some figures to the present and also questioned if ESD had researched prices as well. Kurt Fenstermacher spoke about budget constraints. Daniel Marin spoke about different events where pets could be place for adoption, Ms. Krasowski inquired about advertising venues such as movie theaters and asked a status report to be presented at next month's meeting.

**Motion: No action taken.**

5. Discussion on comprehensive understanding of El Paso Animal Services adoption program and contractual relationship with Humane Society of El Paso – Kurt Fenstermacher presented a brief report to ASAC members. At Ms. Margherio's request, Luis Rios explained the VIP designation process, animal retention times, and Rose Janice's

role on adoptions. Betty Hoover explained the role of Humane Society adoption counselors. Marcia Margherio asked if there is maximum or minimum number of animals to be designated as VIPs. Linda Krasowski mentioned that she found prior to this meeting which seemed to be ill and had been at the shelter for over a month. Ms. Krasowski emphasized the fact that the animal should be out of the public view and provided with medical care. Regina Wagner suggested a foster to take the animal. Rose Janice advised this is the first concern reported to her, and that the issue it would be brought up to the shelter veterinarian's attention.

**Motion: No action taken.**

6. Discussion and action to introduce a resolution designating Tuesday February 25, 2014 "National World Spay Day." Ms. Margherio advised she would like for City Council to recognize this day in the form of a resolution and read a draft to the committee members and advised of the importance of recognizing this day in the City of El Paso by both pet owners and non-owner's. Regina Wagner questioned if all important pet days could be presented to City Council at once.

**Motion made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Bob Melson to present the resolution proposed by Marcia Margherio to City Council.**

**Ayes:** Peggy Edman, Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Regina Wagner.

**Nays:** None.

7. Discussion on status of low-cost spay/neuter facility. Larry Brunt from Animal Services provided a copy of the floor plan to committee member and provided an overview of timelines and issues encountered

during the construction and remodeling phases. Mr. Brunt advised committee members of grant process and how it helped in purchasing furniture and equipment needed to furnish the clinic. Mr. Brunt advised that compliance with grant requirements will open the doors to obtain other grants once the clinic is open to the public. Linda Krasowski inquired if the asbestos abatement is in progress, Kurt Fenstermacher advised that the design to be provided by contract architects is still in the design stage, and Ms. Krasowski requested a progress report to be included on next month's agenda.

**Motion: No action taken.**

8. Discussion on all educational programs given over the past year with listing to of dates and locations visited. Larry Brunt from Animal Services provided a listing of schools visited in 2013 and explained the steps taken to be invited by each school to provide a presentation. Mr. Brunt advised that request to visit schools was sent by mail to 44 schools and 29 replied requesting a presentation to be provided. Mr. Brunt explained that Dr. Cloud along with other staff provided presentations to approximately 6000 children and school staff in April and May. Mr. Brunt spoke of the ongoing program involving students from Silva Magnet school which includes a detailed zoonosis presentation and tour of the shelter. Mr. Brunt advised that other presentations are also given at health fairs organized by companies like El Paso Electric, Natural Gas Company, etc. Mr. Brunt advised that continuing education and certification training is provided to employees and that they are open to the public as well. Ms. Krasowski asked if any presentations had been given after May 30, 2013. Ms. Krasowski advised that her main concern was to learn about public education efforts focused on the public since as a member of the committee her function is to make recommendations. Kurt Fenstermacher advised that Rose Janice is working to develop a partnership and educational program with the El Paso Zoo. Robert



Melson questioned what had been done by the Zoo to achieve success; Rose Janice advised the zoological society and fundraising have helped a lot. Janice Nutt mentioned that dates on school visits may work better towards the end of the school year. Dr. Roger Freund suggested inviting Rick Novello from the El Paso Zoo to next ASAC meeting.

**Motion: No action taken.**

9. Discussion on Animal Services Statistics. Melson pointed out that some animals seemed to be unaccounted for on stats. Luis Rios advised that the discrepancy may be due to some animals that are in the care of a foster or those designated as VIPs. Mr. Rios clarified for committee members the reason why there was a discrepancy on the stats presented at the meeting last month.

**Motion: No action taken.**

10. Call to Public (30 min)
  - a. Member of the public mentioned improvement on euthanasia rates going from over 70% to lower numbers on recent months and mentioned that it was a good accomplishment and asked what the square footage at the Socorro Rd. facility is; he was advised that it is over 1200 sq. ft.
  - b. Member of the public inquired about budget and 501c3 status, Kurt Fenstermacher advised it is in progress. She also asked Dr. Freund if veterinarians would consider offering a discount to those willing to pay for spay or neuter services for a third party; she also suggested to track data on where the advertisement was seen when members of the public call the shelter regarding adoptions or spay and neuter services.
  - c. Member of the public suggested additional information on spay and neuter services.

- d. Member of the public brought up an issue reported to Animal Services several months ago; and mentioned the content of a letter received in response to her complaint. Patricia Gonzalez requested to see a copy of the letter; Dr. Roger Freund offered to look into the issue.
11. Not having more items of discussion meeting was adjourned at 7: 33 pm.