



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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SERVICE SOLUTIONS SUCCESS



Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes

October 9, 2013

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 by Robert Melson, nominated to chair this meeting. Dr. Roger Freund arrived at the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Motion made by Patricia Gonzalez and seconded by Janice Nutt to nominate Robert Melson to chair this meeting.

Ayes: Patricia Gonzalez, Linda Krasowski, Marcia Margherio, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Eddie Sandoval, Regina Wagner.

Nays: None.

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

Environmental Services staff present: Kurt Fenstermacher, Luis Rios, Rose Janice, Elda Rodriguez-Hefner, Sandra Pellegrini.

Mayor

Oscar Leaser

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

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informational pamphlets are being distributed; Ms. Margherio inquired if any spay or neuter discounts or promotions would be offered on the National Feral Cat day. Ms. Wagner provided some TNR sample prices and advised which services would be available. Ms. Margherio also inquired which areas the TNR would target and how were the areas chosen. Ms. Wagner provided an overview of the procedure followed by Sun City Cats.

Motion: No action taken.

- b. Public Education, Outreach, and Responsible Pet Ownership
Chairperson Patricia Gonzalez advised she has been limited on the actions she could achieve due to budget issues. Ms. Gonzalez inquired about the role of the Environmental Services outreach program and shared information found on the city website. Dr. Roger Freund suggested to visit and if possible to coordinate efforts with that program. Rose Janice clarified that Animal Services does not have an educator, but advised that she is working on adding that component within the volunteer program. Ms. Gonzalez inquired if outreach activities were previously carried out by Animal Services. Kurt Fenstermacher provided an overview of the duties of the outreach and education division and advised that they have jurisdiction only within city limits. Ms. Gonzalez advised she was interested in providing outreach and education to the residents of the county area and surrounding municipalities.

Motion: No action taken.

4. Discussion and action on group ideas and suggestions to improve animal welfare with the goal of saving lives. Marcia Margherio presented a document outlining preventive measures to reduce euthanasia numbers. Some of the items discussed included increasing spay and neuter, increasing the number of pets returned to their owners, sharing reports with other shelters, reducing the number of owner-surrendered animals,

improving the lost and found process currently in place, updating microchip information and utilizing resources such as the Found Animals Microchip Registry, increasing compliance with city licensing requirement, increasing live-release numbers, as well as educating and engaging the public in the effort of saving pet lives. Ms. Margherio asked the committee to provide feedback on which program would be of more benefit to save animals. Robert Melson inquired if Animal Services could advertise a list of adoptable animals on weekly basis, Kurt Fenstermacher advised that the cost would prevent it and pointed that all adoptable animals were available for viewing in the city website. Committee members were advised of the addition of an adoption fee to Schedule C and how it would allow Animal Services to increase off-site adoptions thus increasing live-releases. Regina Wagner provided a briefing on Item 4 discussed the previous month, and suggested establishing payment arrangements for the public. Kurt Fenstermacher spoke about the creation of programs that could help our community such as military members or citizens in special or unique situations and offer alternative solutions to euthanasia. Regina Wagner inquired about the status of previously discussed bus bench advertisements, Kurt Fenstermacher advised that it is still a work in progress. Dr. Roger Freund recommended continuing discussion on this item next month.

Motion: No action taken. Item will be discussed next month.

5. Discussion on update to progress made since 1999 and 2006 “No Kill” – City Reports/Designations.

Member of the public who requested this item to be included advised she requested an update but that she had no access to any information.

Dr. Freund advised that he would gather the necessary information and would follow-up on this item next month.

Postponed to next meeting.

6. Discussion on staffing model, process for hiring, current staffing levels and breakdown of staff position categories. Linda Krasowski advised it would be beneficial for the committee to know the staffing model used for the Animal Services Shelter, their actual staffing needs and how those needs had been determined. Patricia Gonzalez advised of an incident on a Sunday afternoon when she visited the shelter and was advised that only two kennel attendants were available at the time to assist the public. Linda Krasowski requested more information about changes on staffing which showed that some positions had been added and some had been deleted in past years. Kurt Fenstermacher discussed the previous and current goals of Animal Services, and presented staffing tables explaining changes made in the past two fiscal years, such as addition and deletion of different positions as well as hiring both full time and temporary employees. Ms. Krasowski requested a periodic report to the committee in order to have current information available.

Motion: No action taken.

7. Discussion on Animal Services Statistics

Kurt Fenstermacher presented new reports from Animal Services to committee members and explained their new format. Robert Melson advised he was satisfied with the new report. Luis Rios advised he would answer any questions about the content on the reports. Kurt Fenstermacher advised that a report would be provided each month. Committee members provided feedback on the new report format. Eddie Sandoval advised that different options could be explored to reduce euthanasia rates, such as transporting animals to other shelters in different states with the help of volunteers, finding quarantine facilities, transportation, etc. Kurt Fenstermacher advised Animal Services was working on rebuilding relationships with rescue partners. Robert Melson requested differential rates between cats and dogs to be included on reports.

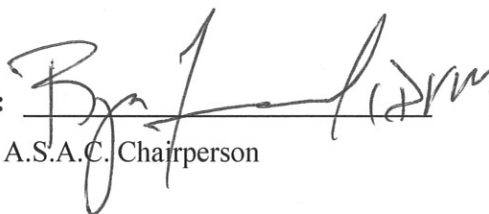
Motion: No action taken.

8. Call to Public

- a. A member of the public distributed a flyer on a program taking place in another state focused on recycling to raise funds to help shelters and pointed out that it was of benefit to the environment and also helped pet owners. Kurt Fenstermacher spoke of the need to be a non-profit organization in order to generate revenue and the status of Animal Services' 501c3.
- b. James Hun offered his services as a media relations volunteer and spoke of programs established in South Carolina, issues experienced with the Animal Services website, education, scanning of animals on the field, and no-kill goal. Mr. Hun also requested a revision of Title 7.
- c. Mr. Margherio advised reports were well-built and requested further explanation about some statistics included in them.
- d. A member of the public asked what could be done about buying and selling pets and inquired if it that was an issue that could be addressed by enforcement. Dr. Freund advised that complaint could be filed if the issue occurred within city limits. A list of certified breeders was requested, but he was advised that the information was available only through an open records request.
- e. A member of the public advised that she reported an issue involving animals for sale posted on Craig's List which appeared to be emaciated, and when she called to place a complaint she was advised that response time could be up to three days. Citizen also inquired about a program to offer aid to the elderly and low income pet owners to allow them to care for and keep their pets.

9. Not having any more items of discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Prepared by: Sandra Pellegrini, Animal Services

Approved by: 
A.S.A.C. Chairperson