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Tommy Gonzalez

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes
November 9, 2016

1. A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the City Council Chambers and was called to order at 6:01 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	
Betty Hoover	x	
Catherine Fagan		x
Marcia Margherio	x	
Robert Melson	x	
Rep. Dr. Michiel Noe		x
Regina Wagner	x	
Barbara Candelaria	x	
Janet Nutt	x	

Animal Services staff present: Kurt Fenstermacher, Michelle Anderson, Maribel Karisch

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. **Reading and approval of minutes**
Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC October 12, 2016 minutes.

Committee members were asked if there were any questions or revisions. Janice Nutt and Marcia Margherio requested corrections

Motion made by Robert Melson and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to accept the October 12, 2016 minutes with corrections.

Kurt Fenstermacher – Interim Director
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"Delivering Outstanding Services"



Ayes: Dr. Guy Johnsen, Robert Melson, Barbara Candelaria, Cecilia Carpio, Peggy Edman Marcia Margherio, Betty Hoover, Janet Nutt

Nays: None

Abstain: Regina Wagner

3. Chairman Remarks

Dr. Guy Johnsen mentioned that speakers will be allowed to comment on any of new business agenda items. They will be limited to 3 minutes to speak 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 out of topic. He also mentioned that the public has the legal right to video tape the proceedings.

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

a. *Free Roaming Cats-*

Regina Wagner mentioned that in order to make an impact in the Free Roaming Cats community, it's important to provide education, support and training. Sun City Cats continues to help the community on TNR by phone, Facebook, door to door and through local events. The participation of local vets is on the rise while the community is excited and are stepping to the plate to help with TNR. The City Magazine wrote an article about National Feral Cat day and mentioned Sun City's event in the October edition. The Public Relations Department of Mithoff Burton Partners Ad Agency also wrote an article on the TNR event by Sun City Cats and Animal Services held on October 15th and 16th for National Feral Cat Day which she read to the committee. She also mentioned that the live release rate has more than doubled from 26% in 2013 to 57% in 2016. She was also very thankful to Dr. Christensen and staff for performing 128 surgeries in 2 mornings, which she compared to Gainesville, Florida's high volume spay/neuter clinic, which performs 150 surgeries a day with 5 times the staff and volunteers. The next clinic event will be held in December on 2 separate days which are Saturday the 3rd and 17th.

b. *Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Ownership*

Barbara Candelaria distributed the Christmas flyers and posters to each committee member. Each member will then distribute to different location throughout the city. Barbara also suggested starting the "AVOID THE SPRING FLING" campaign soon. Plans for the campaign were made earlier



in 2016 with flyers and t-shirts however it didn't take off. She also suggested revisiting the overpopulation Ad hoc committee since pet overpopulation contributes to the euthanasia rate.

c. Animal Services Monthly Operations and Statistics Report

Kurt Fenstermacher went over the Shelter Animal Count Report for October. The report is provided by Petpoint which is the standard form for other National organizations. The live release rate for October was 64.79%. Robert Melson questioned the accuracy of the current data compared to data from September 2015. Kurt explained that the new report provides accurate data. The live release rate for FY2016 was 56%, which has exceeded the 50% goal. The cat live release rate for October was 67.7 %.

He also gave an update on the social media standings: Facebook 64,990 engaging people which has grown from 12,769 in the last year. Twitter has 425 follower and Instagram with 59 followers. Social Media has helped in sharing the message about the animals at the shelter.

Kurt Fenstermacher presented the November PAWCAST which received applause from both the public and committee.

5. Call to the public

- a. Patricia Johnsen read a letter from Linda Krasowski who was unable to attend the meeting. Linda Krasowski mentioned in the letter that the increase of the live release rate is mostly due to free adoptions and there hasn't been any improvements with the euthanasia rate. She also recommended to make a national search for an experienced Director.
- b. Patricia Johnsen agreed with what Linda Krasowski mentioned in her letter. She also mentioned that The El Paso Animal Advocacy Group doesn't support the recommendation ASAC is making to City Council.
- c. Katie Ramirez from Animal Advocacy Group explained that Animal Services will never become no-kill with adoption events only. The no-kill equation also consists of community outreach which involves Animal Control Officers returning animals out in the neighborhoods before entering the shelter and an outreach person to speak to those relinquishing their pets.

6. New Business-Main Discussion of Meeting

a. Discussion and action on Ad hoc Committee on Community Cats

Dr. Johnsen mentioned that the committee continues to meet and is discussing the ordinances, statutes and policies. They are also gathering information on what the regulations and rules are and what the governments are saying about the cats. They've been learning about cat reproductive behavior and they



want to get the word out to spay and neuter as many cats between October and January to prevent the tsunami of kittens in April through mid June. Dr. Johnsen also mentioned that Dr. Canupp, one of the vets from Animal Services, who has enriched experience in shelter medicine recommended having a trifold relationship which consists of an open admission shelter, a limited admission shelter and a high quality/high volume spay and neuter clinic with 4 to 6 vets performing surgeries 5 days a week. These three entities are the model for a successful overpopulation program. The committee concluded to combine the TNR/Community Cats process into the overpopulation control plan and present only one plan to City Representatives instead of multiple plans. Their next meeting is still pending. They are waiting for a representative from Alley Cat Allies to schedule a meeting date.

The date and time will be announced in November or December.

b. Discussion and action on Ad hoc Committee on Rabies, Vaccinations, Microchip and Registration

Marcia Margherio mentioned that after going over issues concerning rabies, vaccination and microchip compliance, their main focus is disease prevention. The ad hoc committee recommended to start a comprehensive vaccination clinic immediately. A free parvo/distemper vaccination event will be held on November 13, 2016 in efforts to reduce the number of animals suffering and/or dying from the highly preventable disease. The committee also recommended for ASAC to endorse the event to help the pets in the El Paso County to have a safe and healthy environment.

Suzie Graham who is part of the ad hoc committee expressed that the community response to the clinic event has been wonderful.

Loretta Hyde added that the event will be held on the Westside at the **Tractor Supply** from 9am-3pm. Micro chipping, rabies vaccinations and registrations will also be available as well as some feline shots. Janice Nutt reminded to have the microchips registered. These clinics will be targeting areas where parvo/distemper is a problem and to help make a difference in the community.

Katie Ramirez from the El Paso Animal Advocacy Group expressed that she completely endorses the free vaccination clinics and she also commended Marcia Margherio and Suzie Graham for a great job.

Motion: Marcia Margherio motioned and seconded by Cecilia Carpio for ASAC to endorse the November 13, 2016 vaccination event as well as intended similar events for free parvo/distemper vaccinations clinics for the community sponsored by Animal Rescue League of El Paso, El Paso Pugg Rescue,



El Paso Citizens for Shelter Reform and El Animal Services.

Aye: Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Marcia Margherio, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Regina Wagner, Betty Hoover, Barbara Candelaria
Cecilia Carpio, Peggy Edman

Nays: None

c. Discussion and action to remove the Pet Overpopulation topic listed in last month's agenda off the table and have discussion and possible action to initiate committee structure

Robert Melson expressed that after motioning to table the item for six months, he reconsidered to have both strategic goals addressed since TNR is a subset of the pet overpopulation problem.

Motion: Robert Melson motioned and Cecilia Carpio seconded that it be removed from the table and be reinstituted.

Ayes: Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Marcia Margherio, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Regina Wagner, Betty Hoover, Barbara Candelaria
Cecilia Carpio, Peggy Edman

Nays: None

Dr. Guy Johnsen indicated that the reality is that everything falls into one huge strategic plan and eventually everything will have to be merged, including disease prevention. Robert Melson added that since TNR is a part of the pet overpopulation problem and public outreach/education is fundamental to all the problems discussed, both ad hoc committees should be combined into a single committee. Janice Nutt suggested keeping the committees separate considering that TNR is a big process in itself. Betty Hoover added that obtaining the high volume spay/neuter clinic is the key to the TNR problem, which could be a future endeavor for the city. Barbara Candelaria suggested leaving TNR in its own group. Each member received a copy of the *"No-Kill Community Plan by 2015."*

Motion: Robert Melson motioned and Cecilia Carpio seconded to Develop the Over Population Committee.

Ayes: Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Marcia Margherio, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Regina Wagner, Betty Hoover, Barbara Candelaria
Cecilia Carpio, Peggy Edman



Nays: None

d. Discussion and action on the follow-up discussion and action on Shelter Inspections

Dr. Johnsen had some questions on the inspection process: Is a notice about the time-line be sent out by ASAC? are the shelters responsible for hiring their own veterinarian and do they have to be permitted? Is it standard process? The shelters have to hire a veterinarian of their choice as per the Chapter 823.003, which raised the question on whether ASAC should strengthen the process. Regina Wagner explained that all the Z-3 forms go to Dr. Waldrop, however he doesn't go to the shelters, Robert Melson added. Loretta Hyde explained that the vets comply on making a good inspection. They don't want to get bad publicity. Betty Hoover invited Dr. Johnsen to join either Dr. Medina or Dr. Flossi when they perform the inspection at the Humane Society shelter.

e. Discussion and action on formulating a resolution from ASAC to the Mayor and City Council to appoint Kurt Fenstermacher as the permanent Director of Animal Services

Dr. Mark Sutter opened the discussion by thanking the committee members for volunteering their time in pursuing solutions to animal issues. He questioned the wording of the agenda item which conflicts with the City Charter and read the section of the City Charter pertaining to the appointment of personnel. He also mentioned that there is a national search underway for the position of Director of the Department of Animal Services. He offered information on approving travel request for Kurt Fenstermacher to take his certification for Animal Welfare administrator. Josette Flores explained that the way the agenda item was written, it was in conflict with the City Charter, however, she also mentioned that there are other ways to word the agenda item without taking away its meaning. Peggy Edman and Regina Wagner inquired about the cost for the national search. Regina suggested using the funds in helping the animals in the city instead. Robert Melson pointed out how Kurt Fenstermacher has done an outstanding job in the several months as Interim Director of Animal Services and ASAC is taking the opportunity to recognize his performance. Robert Melson also mentioned that ASAC is not demanding but urging the city to act on their resolution to formalize Kurt Fenstermacher's position to Director of the Department of Animal Services.

Dr. Guy Johnsen read the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Resolution:



*Whereas the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee (ASAC) of the City of El Paso is charged by city ordinance with recommending measures affecting the welfare of animals within the city, and
Whereas the Mayor and City Council formed The Department of Animal Services in 2016, and
Whereas Mr. Kurt Fenstermacher was appointed Interim Director of The Department of Animal Services, having served previously as Assistant Director of Environmental Services, with oversight over Animal Services operations, and as a member of the Animal Shelter Reform Task Force, and
Whereas the Department of Animal Services under his guidance and leadership, as interim director, has made significant progress toward achieving the City's stated no-kill goal, and continues to improve conditions at the city operated El Paso Animal Shelter to the benefit and ultimate welfare of all animals housed therein or passing through its custody.
Now, therefore, we the undersigned members of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee do strongly urge that Mr. Fenstermacher be immediately appointed as Director of the Department of Animal Services.*

After discussion on the wording of the last paragraph, it was reworded to read: *Now, therefore, we the undersigned members of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee do strongly urge that Mr. Kurt Fenstermacher be considered for the position as Director of the Department of Animal Services.*

Motion: Motion was made by Robert Melson and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to in fact change the wording of the last paragraph of the resolution to read as was suggested and accept the entire resolution with that change.

Ayes: Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Marcia Margherio, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Regina Wagner, Betty Hoover, Barbara Candelaria Cecilia Carpio, Peggy Edman

Nays: None

There were several members of the public that spoke in support of the ASAC resolution: Loretta Hyde (Animal Rescue League) Kristina Madden and Amanda Herrera (Pugg Rescue).

Patricia Johnson (El Paso Animal Advocacy Group) was against the ASAC resolution.

Katie Ramirez (El Paso Animal Advocacy Group) spoke to address the other percentage of animals that don't make it out of the shelter alive.



7. Motion was made by Robert Melson and seconded by Peggy Edman to adjourn the November 9, 2016 meeting at 7: 54 pm

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Kurt Fenstermacher, is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.