



Department of Animal Services

Mayor
Dee Margo

City Council

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexandra Annello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Claudia Ordaz Perez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

City Manager
Tommy Gonzalez

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes December 12, 2018

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 6:06 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, Maribel Karisch, Ramon Herrera, Michele Anderson and Ana Schumacher

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Discussion and action on the approval of the November 14, 2018 minutes.

Julie Rutledge motioned to accept the November 14, 2018 minutes; Charlie Moreno seconded; all members voted in favor, and motion passed unanimously.

3. **Chairman Remarks**

Ken Margherio mentioned that the process to replace Maria Ramirez and Amanda Herrera with new members has begun.



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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 reported that in the last ASAC meeting all TNR surgical slots were being utilizing thru December 1st. Although this was stated, a person who attended that meeting reached out the next day for special assistance despite the fact that they were told all TNR slots were utilized. Sun City Cats went above and beyond to accommodate this individual. Regina indicated that the volunteers are exhausted and when special requests are made, the concern is that the volunteers and the veterinarians will become overwhelmed. Sun City Cats have done 3 times more TNR cats than last year. These surgeries are either sponsored by participating vets or paid by the public. Cat abandonment continues to be a problem even after three years since laws have changed. The public continues to abandon cats when TNR is the best approach. They are seeing results on the one-on-one education by empowering individuals to help in their neighborhoods. Ken Margherio suggested putting a subcommittee to find answers to key issues. Regina mentioned that education, volunteers and getting more traps are Sun City Cats key issues and they are currently working to find solutions. Dr. Johnsen mentioned that during the spring fling, spays/neuters need to be upgraded before the pregnancies advance. Regina expressed her concerns due to the limited number of traps and volunteers. Additional traps have been ordered but there is minimum of a two-month wait. Dr. Johnsen asked if Sun City Cats has a board and Regina responded yes. He then asked how many members are on the board and Regina replied four members. Regina also stated that she could not speak for the board. Sun City Cats is a volunteer based organization. Ken Margherio asked if any member had any ideas as to where Sun City Cats can get more traps and volunteers. If they did, to get with Regina.

B. Subcommittee-

None

C. Rescue Agency/ Limited Shelter Report

None

D. Department of Animal Services

Paula Powell mentioned in her report that November brought some challenges; one being the high intake. In comparing 2016, 2017 and 2018, the intake is decreasing and the outcomes for 2018 have increased. There are currently 358 fosters and Animal Services is still working on increasing that number. The LLR for November was 82.45% was short from last year's 83.20%. The Shelter Animal Count LLR for November was 82.45% with a euthanasia rate of 14.85%, a slight higher than November 2017. The increase was due to the died-in-care. Animal Services is still moving in the right direction in reaching their goal of 90% by 2020.

Paula Powell- Director

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Plan.

Paula also mentioned the six strategic goals from the Animal Services Strategic

She explained that each goal has departmental measures and are led by a manager. The six goals are: Goal 1-*Reduce the number of pets entering Animal Services.* Goal 2-*Provide healthier pets.* Goal 3-*Provide safe, comfortable living conditions for pets in our care and community.* Goal 4- *Increase positive outcomes for pets in our community.* Goal 5- *Increase social awareness of animal welfare in our community.* Goal 6-*Provide a safe environment for employees and opportunities for professional development.* A copy of the measures will be sent to members on a separate date and a report on the goals progress will be distributed each month. Paula added that these goals will lead Animal Services in becoming no kill by 2020. Paula will be attending a meeting with county, to include elected officials and school board trustees on Friday. The meeting is to go over the Animal Services Strategic Plan and how they will help in getting that last 10%.

Dr. Johnsen inquired about the financial cost of the Strategic Plan. Paula explained that Animal Services will receive grants that will be used for veterinarian services. Budget has been set for additional staff that will help with the spay/neuter and vaccinations at the Socorro Clinic. Paula also explained that Animal Services is short one veterinarian and will have five relief vets to help as the need arises. Dr. Johnsen is one of the relief vets. The Socorro Clinic will be opening and will operate on consistent days. Charlie Moreno requested a copy of the Animal Protection Officer's return to owner out in the field policy. He explained that some concerns about Officers not scanning pets have been brought to his attention. Paula explained that due to safety reasons, the officers will scan the pets until they arrive at the shelter and then return to owners. She will direct the concern to Gina Ramirez. She also explained that when pets are out, the officers will issue warnings for the first offense. On the second offense, the officers will issue citations for non-confinement and may refer the owners to the Pet Retention office for assistance. Regina asked about the 16% increase in the release of Community Cats and Paula will get with her later. Ken also asked about the shelter inventory and Ramon Herrera responded by saying roughly 375 and Paula added that she would like to keep it at 300. Eydie Prado asked whether disease control will be addressed in the measures. Paula explained that there will be disease control especially with the high distemper across the city, Las Cruces and Odessa. Pet's Alive helped with the intake process and vaccinating at intake is extremely important. There will be changes and she will receive a daily report on the progress of animals treated. Charlie Moreno asked Paula how she felt about the 90% and will she get there. Paula replied yes and more.

The Paw Cast was presented by Michele Anderson.

5. **Call to the public**
Linda Krasowski

6. **Main Agenda**
 - A. **Election of New Officers, Chair and Vice-Chair**



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Ken Margherio asked the members for nominations for Chair. He explained that members could either nominate another member or themselves. After nomination, the member could either accept or decline the nomination. Ken Margherio and Charlie Moreno were nominated for chair and both accepted the nomination. After votes were counted, Ken Margherio took the chair. Eydie Prado and Charlie Moreno were nominated for vice-chair. Nomination were accepted by both members. Eydie Prado won for vice-chair after all votes were tallied. Ken Margherio will serve a second term for chair and Eydie Prado will serve as vice-chair for 2019.

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

B1. Discussion and action on ASAC by-laws.

Dr. Johnsen explained that this item on the by-laws has been on the several agendas and since ASAC's mission has changes so should the by-laws. There are minimal changes from the last by-laws. The by-laws are good to have to better explain the purpose of ASAC. Article II was added to show the new mission and purpose of the committee, and legal will change some of the wording as needed. Legal will also look at the entire document and decide whether they are in agreement. Section 4, under Article III, refers to the members' attendance and is also a new addition to the by-laws. In Article VI, under officers and duties, the Chair will have authority to disqualify a member based on his or her attendance record. Ana Schumacher added that the chair does not have authority to disqualify a member, it still has to go through mayor and council. Ana Schumacher will research more on the city ordinance referencing attendance.

Regina Wagner suggested extending the one-year term to two years and to change how a quorum is established when there are vacancies. Ana recommended revising the municipal code since it states that there has to be six members for a quorum. Dr. Johnsen suggested for a member to have at least a year in the committee before becoming an officer. He also suggested adding a clause to remove an officer. After discussion, it was determined that a member has to let the secretary know of their absence within 24 hours after the meeting, otherwise it will be considered unexcused. The deadline for members to submit any questions, comments, additions and revisions to secretary is January 8, 2019 so that all submissions can be forwarded to Ana Schumacher for review on January 15, 2019.

Dr. Johnsen motioned to adopt the by-laws for the committee to be processed with perhaps some amendments from legal and to be presented back to the committee when finalized. Charlie Moreno seconded; all members voted in favor and motion passed unanimously.

Paula Powell announced that the Socorro Clinic will have a grand opening on January 13, 2019 and will operate 5 days a week. The clinic will be offering



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free vaccinations on that day only. Vet-checks for adopted animals will also be done at the clinic. There will be a press release with more details.

B2. Discussion and action on the importance of scanning animal remains.

Item B2 was tabled for next month meeting.

7. Future Agenda Items

Discussion and action on scanning animal remains
Animal Cruelty Unit Presentation
El Paso Community Foundation

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM

Charlie Moreno motioned to adjourn; Julie Rutledge 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 a horizontal line.