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Tommy Gonzalez

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes
December 14, 2016

1. A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the City Council Chambers and was called to order at 6:00 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 November 9, 2016 minutes.

Committee members were asked if there were any questions or revisions.

Motion made by Peggy Edman and seconded by Betty Hoover to accept the November 9, 2016 minutes.

Kurt Fenstermacher – Interim Director
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www.elpasotexas.gov

"Delivering Outstanding Services"



Ayes: Dr. Guy Johnsen, Cecilia Carpio, Peggy Edman Marcia Margherio, Betty Hoover, Regina Wagner

Nays: None

Abstain: Dr. Michiel Noe

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 off topic.

Dr. Johnsen is planning on visiting all the rescue groups and shelters to establish unity. He has visited Animal Services on several occasions and has been slightly involved with the spay/neuter process. He has also been learning about the complexities involved in Shelter Medicine with the assistance of Dr. Cannup. He went through the inspection process with the assistance of Dr. Flossi and the Humane Society's Operations Manager Edgar Armendariz. As a limited admission shelter, Dr. Johnsen found it be a super model agency in having a top grasp on hygiene, odor, pest control and disease prevention. He partially attended Dr. Ken Waldrup's Rabies Prevention Seminar that was presented to Animal Control Officers. Dr. Johnsen suggested having members become more familiarized with the differences and similarities with open and limited admission shelters. He is amazed at the many changes happening at Animal Services; from the remodeling to staff being happy. He also mentioned that the committee should try to become united in their cause to give their four legged friends a voice.

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

Dr. Johnsen welcomed all rescue groups and shelters to participate in the meetings. He recommended inviting all rescue groups and shelters to the meetings to discuss their common needs by sending out a letter.

a. *Free Roaming Cats-*

To wrap up 2016, a video of Sun City Cats' events were presented to the public and committee by Regina Wagner. The video included events such as: The approval of the Community Cats Program by City Council on February 23rd, the TNR door hangers designed by Alley Cats Allies, El Paso making National News when adopting the TNR Program, 3019 cats having gone through the Sun City Cats and Animal Services TNR Program from January to



December 7th, photos of dedicated colony managers and volunteers in the TNR process, the Mega adoption at Petco (Bassett Center), Kitty City, NM for helping adopt kittens, 128 cats were spayed/neutered in 2 days during National Feral Cat Day, Special thanks was given to volunteers, colony managers, participating veterinarians, Dr. Christensen and staff.

b. *Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Ownership*

Barbara suggested restarting the "AVOID THE SPRING FLING" campaign.

c. *Animal Services Monthly Operations and Statistics Report*

Kurt Fenstermacher went over the Shelter Animal Count Report for November. The live release rate for dogs in November was 63.83% and the live release rate for cats was 72.82%.

Through a Petco Foundation grant, \$45,000 will be used to offset low-cost or no-cost adoptions. The other \$45,000 will be used to hire an off-site coordinator. Animal Services also received a \$32,000 from the Maddie's Foundation for shelter improvements that were approved by city council earlier this year. The Sally Port will be the first to be redesigned. A wall will be built to separate the animals from the unloading area. This wall will also conserve the adequate temperature for the animals in Sally Port. The project is expected to take six weeks to complete. Betty Hoover has offered helping house animals during the construction phase. The second improvement is the front entrance. Adoptions will have their own entrance to avoid cross contamination when other animals are brought in through the front door. With 41 cats in the shelter, the rooms that once housed cats are now being used to keep small dogs. The Community Cats room is now being used as a recovery room for dogs.

An upcoming adoption event will soon be announced. On December 17th an off-site adoption event is scheduled.

Briefings at City Council will start in January with different staff members presenting.

The Animal Services Public Relations team (Ramon Herrera and Michele Anderson) has made several promotions possible: *Kick off Adoption Celebration, Cinco De Mayo Adoption Fiesta where media got involved in telling the story of the adoption of a dog named Snow White.* Animal Services also promotes on social media like Facebook, twitter and Instagram. There are two volunteer photographers that are also supporting the Animal Services efforts. Website enhancements, new easy website address, more graphics, new calendar of events, Paw Cast Monthly Video, El Paso's Pets Guide for pet tips are some of the extra projects used in helping inform and promote events to the community.



5. **Call to the public**

- a. Ken Margherio praised Animal Services for all they have accomplished within the last few months of 2016. The live release rate went from 25% to 56%. With a 50% live release goal for 2016, the outcome was exceptional Ken added. He gave kudos to ASAC for having made a difference in 2016. Kurt Fenstermacher gave kudos to Ken Margherio for his participation in the Lean Six Sigma project of the New Capacity plan for the shelter.

6. **New Business-Main Discussion of Meeting**

- e. **Discussion and action on procedure or protocol both from the city's and from the EPVMA's stand point regarding injured animals that are found by others than the owner from both legal and ethical point of view**
Peggy Edman explained that she was threatened by a local vet in regards to her taking a sick kitten she found in her drive way. The vet threatened to file against her for abandonment after she left the kitten in the office. Peggy inquired from legal and ethical points of view from EPVMA and City protocol. Dr. Johnsen explained that this is a business practice and there are no rules set by the EPVMA. Kurt explained that from the enforcement side, there are no grounds for abandonment.
- a. **Discussion and action on Ad hoc Committee on Community Cats**
The committee met on December 12th at Animal Services shelter with a representative from Alley Cat Allies which took place through skype. The ASAC goal of a regional pet overpopulation plan which includes an open shelter, several limited and a high volume spay/neuter clinic were discussed as well as how the community cats play a part in the overpopulation. Other topics that were brought up were: means of measurements, staffing, volunteers, registering colony managers, public education. The formation of a Coalition by which the city, county, municipalities, rescue agencies and shelters can unite was also mentioned.
- b. **Discussion and action on Ad hoc Committee on Rabies, Vaccinations, Microchip and Registration**
Marcia Margherio mentioned that with the collaboration of Animal Services and other stakeholders, two successful vaccination events were made possible. The first event was on November 13, 2016 at the Tractor Supply Co., where 700 free parvo/distemper vaccinations were administered. The second event was held at the Pet's Barn on Yarbrough on December 11, 2016, where 600 free parvo/distemper vaccinations were administered. Pet's barn also distributed samples of dog food for each person that attended. There was a combined total of 1,850 parvo/distemper vaccinations administered by Animal Services and other stakeholders during the months



of November and December. Aside from the parvo/distemper vaccinations, there were 500 rabies vaccinations administered at both events. Cecilia Carpio also added that there were a total of 550 microchips, parvo/distemper, license and rabies vaccinations within three low cost clinics held at Animal Services during the months of October, November and December. Kurt Fenstermacher mentioned that Animal Services donated 500 parvo/distemper vaccinations for the clinic efforts. He added that Animal Services will participate in the next \$30,000 grant round. Some of that money will be used to support the efforts of the low cost vaccination clinics. The response from the community was amazing, and it showed that the community does care about vaccinating their pets Ken Margherio added. The committee will continue educating and providing resources to increase compliance in the community.

c. Discussion and action on formation of the El Paso City/County and Regional Animal Over-Population Committee

Dr. Guy Johnsen announced that Catherine Fagan has agreed to chair the Ad hoc Pet Over-population committee. Catherine Fagan will select 3 to 5 members only and will then invite other members as needed from Animal Services, another shelter or Veterinarian. A business plan will then be presented to City Council.

Motion: Cecilia Carpio motioned and Dr. Michiel Noe seconded to declare that this committee be formed and that Catherine Fagan oversee it.

Ayes: Marcia Margherio, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Dr. Michiel Noe, Regina Wagner, Betty Hoover, Barbara Candelaria
Cecilia Carpio,

Nays: None

Motion passed to form the Ad hoc Animal Over-Population Committee

d. Discussion and action on status of the 501c3 research

Dr. Michiel Noe explained that the creation of the 501c3 is almost complete. The Board of Directors will have their first meeting on Monday, January 16, 2017. The meeting will consist of establishing by-laws, dues, nominating committee, etc. There are currently three members who are Dr. Michiel Noe, Camilo Jimenez and Dora Oxaca. The board will be composed of 15 members; seven members within the first year and eight on the second year. Members will have a two year term. Donations as a non-profit organization



will be able to be accepted by mid to late January. The website is Friendsofepas.org. Dr. Noe thanked everyone for being patient. Dr. Guy Johnsen suggested having a final presentation of the 501c3 to ASAC.

f. Discussion and action on a city wide campaign for world spay day in the Spring, promote a Spring spay and neuter campaign and a Valentine's Day adoption event

Barbara Candelaria suggested starting up the "AVOID THE SPRING FLING" campaign again. Plans for the campaign were made earlier in 2016, however it didn't take off. Barbara suggested starting the campaign from Valentine's Day. She is requesting for Animal Services and EPMVA to get involved. Kurt suggested starting with a plan and to talk with Michele Anderson. Dr. Johnsen also suggested having a written plan to be presented to the EMPVA.

7. Motion was made by Cecilia Carpio and seconded by Dr. Michiel Noe to adjourn the December 14, 2016 meeting at 8:07 pm.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Johnsen", is written over a horizontal line.