



El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR

Oscar Leaser

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes

December 8, 2021

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Peter Svarzbein

District 2

Alexsandra Annello

District 3

Cassandra Hernandez

District 4

Joe Molinar

District 5

Isabel Salcido

District 6

Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7

Henry Rivera

District 8

Cissy Lizarraga

1. Call to Order- Establish Quorum

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the Animal Services Shelter by Chair Representative Alexsandra Annello at 6:10.

Board Members	Present	Absent
Regina Wagner	X	
Celeste Varela	X	
Sandra DiFrancesco	X	
Mary Kay Rosenkranz		X
Karen Polanco	X	
Barbara Candelaria		X
Gina Gagen	X	
Elvira Stephanie Frias	X	
Patricia Y. Riley	X	
Loretta Hyde		X
Alexandra Annello	X	

Animal Services staff present: Ramon Herrera, Maribel Karisch, Michele Anderson, Adan Parra, Esty Molina, Renee Rojas, Wesley Walker, Sally Singleton, Janette Martinez and Jessica Navarro.

2. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on approval of minutes for November 10, 2021

Karen Polanco motioned to accept the November 10, 2021; Patricia Rile seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed and motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports-Support the City of El Paso's Initiative to Reach and Sustain a 90% or Greater Live-Release Rate by 2020.

A. Chair Report

No Report

B. El Paso Animal Services November update and statistics

Ramon Herrera explained that it's been a difficult year with many challenges

Ramon Herrera – Interim Director

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to overcome and gave an overview of the return to pre-pandemic operations. The intake for November was 1,377. To offset some of these intakes, the Bissell Foundation is sponsoring a transfer flight out to Canada in a climate control plane the second week of January 2022. In comparing the intakes, 2019 had 1,989 and 2020 had 551. Ramon credited the lower intake compared to 2019 to the additional services provided by Animal Services such as the Food Pantry and the microchipping clinics. The outcome for November was 1,159, this number included fosters and adoptions. The outcomes in comparison to 2021 were; 2,074 in 2019 and 655 in 2020. There are 1,500 fosters which includes foster to adopt pets that are waiting for spay/neuter surgeries. Animal Services is currently working with contract veterinarian to catch up on these surgeries to finalize adoptions. Dr. Medina is the new parttime veterinarian. Ramon explained that once he starts the vet recruitment, he will be able to place part-time and contract veterinarians to oversee the shelter's medical needs. Infectious and not thriving with treatment continue to be the main reasons for euthanasia, however there has been an increase in trauma (hit-by-car). The November LRR was 79.69% and the calendar year LRR was 84.60%. The shelter animals count was 79.69% compared to 82.08% in 2020. The community and pet support program served as a guide to assist the public for found pets during the pandemic and continues to assist the public today. The total intake with no appointment was 420 and 710 were taken in by Animal Protection Officers.

Ramon went over the strategic plan areas that staff emphasized after the survey results: Reduce the number of pets entering Animal Services, Provide a safe environment for employees and opportunities for professional development, and an Emergency Response Plan. He will present an update to ASAC at the January 2022 meeting.

Ramon Herrera presented the PAW Cast.

Regina Wagner requested to have agenda backup sent out prior to meeting.

Gina Gagen thanked Ramon and Animal Services staff for a great job done.

Ramon also thanked the Animal Services staff for giving their time for the live-saving mission and thanked the ASAC for their support.

C. El Paso County Animal Welfare Department November update.

Lauralei Combs mentioned that in November there was a 40% decrease in intake. She thanked officers for their commitment. She also mentioned that El Paso County and City of El Paso will collaborate in their first county clinic fund raiser Santa Paws held at Ascarate Park. The County clinic offers services to the county, city of El Paso, rescue groups and fosters. Lauralei explained that since August 2020, the county has utilized the City's Socorro clinic for no cost services which includes: spay/neuter, vaccinations and microchips. The clinic is held once or twice a month by Dr. Medina. The County impounds animals at Animal Services through an inter-local agreement and starting in January 2022, El Paso County Animal Welfare will service San Elizario. The county will also hire three new officers and get three new

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trucks. Lauralei added that they had 300 wellness vaccinations, 150 rabies vaccination and 144 microchips administered at the drive-thru clinic in Fabens.

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4. Call to the public

None

5. Main Agenda

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

A1. Discussion and approval of ASAC By-laws

Celeste Varela explained that she had sent out the by-laws final draft a couple of meetings ago. The electronic sign-in sheet was in testing and is now ready for implementation.

Celeste Varela motioned and Karen Polanco seconded to adopt the by-laws, all members voted in favor; Regina Wagner abstained.

Regina Wagner indicated that the final draft was not received as promised prior to the meeting for review. She abstained since she could not review and vote on an item she did not have time to prepare for.

6. Future Agenda Item

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM

Celste Varela motioned to adjourn; Sandy DiFrancesco seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

The ASAC went on a tour of the shelter after the meeting. There were presentation by Renee Rojas for CAPS, Wesley Walker for Medical, Sally Singleton for Shelter Population, Janette Martinez for Field Operations, Esty Molina for Foster/Adoptions and Michele Anderson for Public Engagement.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

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