



Department of Animal Services

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes
February 14, 2018

1. **Call to Order – Establish Quorum**

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held in the Humane Society of El Paso conference room and was called to order at 6:01pm by Chair Ken Margherio.

Board Member	Present	Absent
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Amanda Herrera		X
Dr. Guy Johnsen	X	
Ken Margherio	X	
Charlie Moreno	X	
Claudia Ordaz Perez	X	
Maria Ramirez	X	
Julie Rutledge	X	
G. Eric Stoltz	X	
Regina Wagner		X
VACANT		

Animal Services staff present: Paula Powell, Mario D'Agostino, Nicole Cote and Misty Monteros.

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Discussion and action on approval of the January 10, 2018 minutes.

Dr. Guy Johnsen made a motion to approve the January 10, 2018 minutes; Maria Ramirez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

3. **Chairman Remarks – Austin Pets Alive Conference**

Chair spoke on a meeting held at the Humane Society with Dr. Ellen Jefferson from Austin Pets Alive and Lee Ann Shenefiel, Director of Austin Animal Services, in which thoughts and ideas on how to go forward and get to 90% and beyond on the live release rate for Animal Services was discussed. He briefly discussed the Austin Pets Alive Conference, noting experts from across the nation presented their experiences and expertise in how to become no-kill with a 90%+ live release rate, with 60 different presentations across three



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days. Chair closed his report by notifying members of the Best Friends Conference, occurring July 19th-21st in Los Angeles.

4. Reports

A. Member

Barbara Candelaria spoke on awareness and education, explaining that radio station 92.3 ran a piece on the Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, and all the happenings at Animal Services, with a standing monthly invitation to return as scheduling permits.

Julie Rutledge mentioned how far El Paso has come and how far ahead El Paso is as compared to other communities present at the Pets Alive Conference. She further noted that El Paso was used as a good example and Chair added that the live release rate is an amazing success story.

B. Subcommittee

Charlie Moreno provided a report for the Humane Education subcommittee, explaining that a request for donations was put out on Facebook, resulting in books for school-age children being donated, which he would like to get elementary school teachers to introduce in their curriculum. He went on to explain he was waiting to hear from a couple of school administrators about taking it to different schools as a pilot program. He briefly reviewed a seminar he hosted on dog aggression, specifically mentioning behavior modification protocol, management techniques, and risk assessment. Due to the success of that seminar, a certified professional dog training will come in on February 28th for a seminar on service animals, emotional support animals and therapy dogs. A trick dog trainer from Chaparral will come in as well to provide trick and positive reinforcement training. There will be a seminar held in March on separation anxiety in dogs.

C. Rescue Agency/Limited Shelter Report

Dr. Guy Johnsen introduced the new Executive Director for the El Paso Veterinary Medical Association, Eric Boehm, who explained it is his job to support all the veterinarians and all the animal-related business in El Paso. He provided a new email address for any EPVMA needs, director@epvma.org.

D. Department of Animal Services Report

Paula Powell, Interim Director, began by briefly discussing the Austin Pets Alive Conference, noting that El Paso did get a lot of attention and she won a \$1,000 scholarship on the first day. An invite-only event at Austin Animal Services proved to be key in Animal Services finalizing our strategic plan and moving forward with collaboration and partnerships in the community. She went on to provide the January monthly report with fiscal and calendar year comparatives provided via a PowerPoint slideshow, briefly reviewing

Paula Powell – Interim Director

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statistics and comparatives on intakes, outcomes, live release rates, and shelter animal counts. With that, Paula introduced the Pawcast for member review. General discussion followed.

5. **Call to the Public**

The following members of the public commented: Ron Comeau, Pamela Limbaugh, Loretta Hyde, Linda Krasowski, Julie Ito Morales and Connie Jimenez.

6. **Main Agenda**

- A. Discussion and Action on Changing El Paso Animal Ordinance on Tethering Items 6A and 6B were taken together. Chair requested both items be tabled until the March 14th meeting.

Dr. Guy Johnsen moved to table main agenda items A and B; Charlie Moreno seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

- B. Discussion on Free-Roaming Cats

Items 6A and 6B were taken together. No discussion at this time.

- C. Discussion and Action on Creating an Ad-hoc Committee to Develop ASAC Goals

Chair explained that he would like to entertain a motion to create an ad-hoc committee to develop ASAC goals, consisting of 4 or 5 members that would meet and bring their findings to the entire body at a regularly scheduled meeting of the ASAC. Members expressed concern about sidestepping a strategic planning meeting and general discussion on available dates for a strategic planning meeting followed. Assistant City Attorney Josette Flores asked for clarification on whether the body would proceed with the item or if staff would be allowed time to consult calendars and come back with dates and options for the strategic planning meeting. Nicole Cote noted that three dates would be forwarded to members, probably Saturdays at the Humane Society conference room by the end of the next week. *No action taken at this time.*

- D. Discussion and Action on Creating an Ad-hoc Committee to Develop Final By-laws

Chair explained that an ad-hoc committee consisting of Regina Wagner and Maria Ramirez was formed, however, they had not been able to meet. He went on to ask for additional members to volunteer to serve on the ad-hoc committee. Julie Rutledge volunteered to join Regina and Maria on the committee.

Paula Powell – Interim Director

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CITY CLERK DEPT.
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Dr. Guy Johnsen made a motion to form an ad-hoc committee to develop final by-laws, consisting of Maria Ramirez, Regina Wagner and Julie Rutledge; Charlie Moreno seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

E. Discussion and Action to Recommend that City Council Amend Title 7, Code 7.14.010, to Require Pet Grooming Businesses to Employ Methods to Allow for the Visibility of Animals While in Service, such as Large Peering Windows, Surveillance Video Recorders or Other Devices

Claudia Ordaz Perez provided a brief background on the item, explaining that a constituent had contacted her regarding a pet that had recently passed due to injuries sustained from a groomer. A police report was filed, and bolstered, due to the owner of the business having video footage of the incident. She explained she is proposing an amendment to the code that would require peering windows and video recording cameras in bathing and grooming areas of grooming facilities. The item will be going to Council in March for action, but she first wanted to get feedback and thoughts from the group on how to strengthen it. General discussion on community outreach, grooming permits, licensing possibilities, stakeholders and inspections followed. Claudia noted that when an ordinance is enacted, established businesses may be grandfathered in and the amendment would affect new businesses.

Dr. Guy Johnsen made a motion to provide support for Rep. Ordaz's endeavor to amend Title 7 as far as grooming requirements are concerned; Charlie Moreno seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Future Agenda Items

Barbara Candelaria requested 'Discussion and Action on Creating an Ad-Hoc Committee Regarding Pet Overpopulation', Dr. Guy Johnsen requested bringing back items 6A and 6B that were tabled from the February agenda and Charlie Moreno requested 'Discussion and Action on Individual Grooming Licensing for Accountability and Grooming Business Permit Enhancements'.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Prepared by: Misty Monteros

Approved by ASAC Chairmah: 