



El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR
Oscar Leaser

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
Minutes
March 10, 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 virtually by Chair Julie Rutledge at 6:05 PM.

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	
Vacant		
Julie Rutledge	X	
Alexandra Annello		X

Animal Services staff present: Ramon Herrera, Maribel Karisch, Michele Anderson, Adan Parra

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

2. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on approval of minutes for February 10, 2021.

Sandra DiFrancesco motioned to accept the February 10, 2021 minutes; Barbara Candelaria seconded; all members voted in favor, 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. Department of Animal Services February update and statistics

Ramon Herrera explained how the Animal Services' Strategic goals are a key part for remaining on task with their progress. The intake for February 2021 was 1,041 compared to 1,700 in 2019 and 1,615 in 2020. The shelter's

Ramon Herrera – Interim Director

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population has continued to increase and there are currently difficulties finding space for large dogs. The outcome for February was 937, in which the majority were adoptions and transfers. There were 205 adoptions and 202 animals transferred, thanks to several rescue group partnerships. Ramon credited staff in finding alternative solutions to increase outcomes without having major adoptions events. He also gave kudos to all the foster parents for their continuous support. Now that spring is here, Animal Services is starting to see possible distemper cases in the stray population. Staff has become more vigilant in identifying these cases before the trucks arrive and are alerting medical staff to prepare for the treatment and isolation of these animals. The LRR for February was 92.96% as the highest February and the second highest LRR in shelter history. Ramon congratulated staff, fosters, rescue groups, volunteers and the community for their collaboration. In the upcoming months, Animal Services' goal is to identify the challenges with healthy and sick litters, he added. The Calendar LRR was 92.99% and the Fiscal LRR was 90.24%. The Shelter Animal Count LRR was 92.96% compared to 90.73% in February 2020. Ramon thanked the community for their support and for being receptive during the Covid -19 closure adjustments. Ramon Herrera presented the Paw Cast.

Ramon explained that adoptions is having meet and greet by appointment only and in the event a pet will accompany their owner, staff should be notified beforehand. He also explained that through the collaboration of KTSM, they would be highlighting links to shelters and rescue groups in an effort to get pets adopted during the Happily Ever After adoption event.

B. El Paso County Animal Welfare Department February update

Lauralei congratulated Animal Services for the 92.96% LRR. She mentioned that she is looking forward on having deputies assist with scanning strays once they are able to get more scanners. In February 2020, 151 animals were taken to the shelter compared to 78 in February 2021. Lauralei mentioned that they are also transferring animals and not just locally. During the county clinics that are held once a week, 45 pets were microchipped, 116 vaccinations were administered that included rabies, distemper and parvovirus.

Gina Gagen suggested offering more resources on pet ownership for the county community.

4. Call to the public

None

5. Main Agenda

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

A1. Discussion and action on draft of ASAC annual report to the Mayor and City Council

Julie Rutledge presented the draft of the ASAC annual report while asking the committee members if they had any comments and/or questions. Regina Wagner inquired whether a reminder of the shelter inspections was provided to the shelters per the ASAC by-laws. Julie mentioned that she will look into the by-laws, however, in Chapter 823 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, it states that the ASAC will only offer guidance and advice. Under the Highlights for 2020, Barbara Candelaria suggested adding how communication with 311 regarding animal issues was also impacted, and later corrected. Sandra DiFrancesco suggested adding the delivery of pet food to over 300 Covid-19 affected homes, the other numerous events that Animal Services held throughout the year and the year-to-date LRR of 85.9% to the summary. Barbara suggested adding how Animal Services and Parks & Rec. collaborated in reuniting pets with their owners to the summary as well.

Celeste Varela motioned to approve the annual report with modifications discussed; Sandra DiFrancesco seconded; all members voted in favor, and motion passed unanimously.

A2. Discussion and action on community involvement and responsibilities related to stray animals and means of getting them back to their owners

After discussing whether to keep the item on the agenda, Regina Wagner suggested removing the item and to add when needed. Sandra DiFrancesco considered keeping the item on and Barbara Candelaria recommended creating a public service announcement on what to do when finding a stray animal. Ramon added that he would bring the topic again during the Mutt Monday segment. Julie explained that per the consensus, the item would be removed and added once the topic resurfaces.

A3. Discussion and action on establishing ASAC committees for 2021

Julie Rutledge explained that she is recommending the establishment of subcommittees to address the annual report in the by-laws and revisions to the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. The By-laws subcommittee will look into the specifics of the annual report that Julie briefly spoke about at last month's meeting and other areas that might need updates. The Strategic Plan subcommittee will review the plan and make recommendation for revisions or modifications. Barbara Candelaria had questions regarding the protocols for subcommittee meetings and Eric Gutierrez will look into it. Julie explained that as long as there is not a quorum, the meeting doesn't need to be posted. The By-laws subcommittee members are Celeste Varela and Kay

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Rosenkranz. Sandra DiFrancesco and Barbara Candelaria are members of the Strategic Planning subcommittee. The subcommittees will meet virtually and present their reports at next month's meeting.

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6. Future Agenda Item

Subcommittee reports

Scanning dead animals that are removed from the roads

Ordinances related to hitting an animal with a vehicle

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM

Celeste Varela motioned to adjourn; Karen Polanco seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

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