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Animal Shelter Advisory Committee**Minutes****March 11, 2015**

1. A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the Conference Room at the Animal Services Shelter and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Bob Melson Chairperson.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Peggy Edman	X	
Dr. Guy Johnsen	X	
Patricia Gonzalez		X
Betty Hoover	X	
Linda Krasowski	X	
Marcia Margherio	X	
Robert Melson	X	
Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly		X
Regina Wagner	X	
Barbara Candelaria	X	

Environmental Services staff present: Ellen Smyth, Maribel Karisch

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Discussion and action on the approval of the ASAC February 11, 2014 minutes.

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

Motion made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Marcia Margherio to accept the February 11, 2014 minutes with corrections.

Ayes: Robert Melson, Linda Krasowski, Barbara Candelaria, Marcia Margherio, Peggy Edman, Betty Hoover, Regina Wagner, Dr. Guy Johnsen

Nays: None

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3. Call to Public

- a. Member of the public Lizza Campos inquired about to whom ASAC is directing the public's concerns. Robert Melson advised that the committee pursues issues and concerns that pertain to ASAC; however his views along with concerns, issues and questions addressed from the public, he forwards to City Council. Ms. Campos also inquired about parvo testing for all dogs during of-site adoptions. Dr. Christensen explained that if the dogs aren't showing any symptoms, they won't be tested. If the sick dogs were adopted through Animal Services, the dogs will be exchanged
- b. Member of the public Patricia Johnson inquired about the copy of the FY 2015 Budget which she hasn't received yet. During the meeting Ms. Johnson received copies of the FY2013, FY2014 and FY2015 from Ellen Smyth. Ms. Johnson also requested an audit on how the taxpayer money from FY2013 was used for the following: \$30,000 for education and the \$500,000 for the Spay/Neuter Socorro Clinic. Robert Melson explained that ASAC has no control over the budget process; however citizens' concerns and questions on this issue have been expressed to City Council.
- c. Member of the public asked why there are so many other communities that are "No Kill" and the City of El Paso is not. Member of the public Charlie Moreno advised that there are so many philosophies about what "NO KILL" is. Some people like to point fingers at the city government that is not doing anything about the issue, while others blame the rescue groups aren't doing enough and yet others say that the community is contributing to the problem. He explained that when he compares the El Paso with 6 rescue groups to San Antonio with 139 rescue groups, Austin with 123 rescue groups and Dallas with 118 rescue groups and if people want to rescue, then start a rescue group. He advised that the community should do something. They can apply for grants and spread the word on resources available by going door to door. The public can't be coming to these meetings every month and expect for ASAC to do all the work, he added.
- d. Member of the public Jennifer asked how the community can contribute in lowering the euthanasia rate. Member of the public Catherine Fagan advised that the community can help in several ways: fostering, become a rescue and pull from Animal Services, educate the public on pet responsibility and spay/neuter; and volunteer.

- e. Member of the public mentioned that she couldn't understand why Animal Services adopted out a dog with parvo. Robert Melson advised to continue discussion after the meeting.

4. Discussion and Action on Old Business

a. Progress on the Spay/ Neuter Clinic

Ellen Smyth explained that some equipment has been delivered to the clinic and is still in shrink wrap. There is still no Vet; nonetheless two interviews were scheduled but both cancelled. A story was made by KTSM Channel 9 on the veterinarian vacancy in which they followed up with city council. Linda Krasowski inquired about the salary range. Ellen Smyth explained that the negotiating entry level salary range is \$55,000 to \$85,000. Linda also asked whether the salary range is comparable to local vet salaries. Ellen explained that it's been five years since the last compensation study. She has requested to have another study; however the city won't do it for only one position. City Council is aware of the reason why the Spay/Neuter Clinic hasn't opened Ellen Smyth added. Linda also questioned on whether euthanasia will be part of the Socorro Spay/Neuter Clinic's Vet duties. Dr. Christensen explained that there are two different Vet positions; one for the shelter and one for the Socorro Clinic. The Vet at the Socorro Clinic will euthanize on occasion only.

Motion: No Action Taken

b. Discussion on Animal Services Monthly Statistics

Linda Krasowski suggested that the Monthly Statistics should be a standard agenda item and not be on under Old Business.

Motion: No Action Taken

- c. **Animal Services' request to Doggie Do Overs (Dell City) to provide current veterinary inspection report (has AS requested the report; has Dell City responded?)**

Ellen Smyth advised that a certified letter was sent out and calls were made to attain the information requested by ASAC. There has been no response. Doggie Do Overs has been red flagged and is no longer a partner with Animal Services.

Motion: No Action Taken

d. Status of “Pause for Paws” –have they responded to contact attempts? If Not, what action is AS going to take?

Pause for Paws has not responded to the certified letter and calls, therefore they are no longer partners with Animal Services, nonetheless, both rescue groups can be reinstated at any time, Ellen Smyth advised.

Motion: No Action Taken

e. Presentation of the Working Plan to reduce Euthanasia in El Paso

Catherine Fagan explained that in September 2014, ASAC created the subcommittee to develop a plan to reduce the euthanasia rate in El Paso. The Subcommittees’ plan is not a “No Kill” resolution. Instead, it is a list of recommendations to consider, implement, and revise as needed to get the city of El Paso closer to a 90% save rate. Catherine also mentioned that TNR has been the bedrock in reducing the euthanasia rate in every city and is already happening in El Paso, therefore was not included in the presentation. The subcommittee gathered information through surveys with rescue organizations and the public in addition to conducting interviews with the city, county and military officials during a four month period. The subcommittee applied all the gathered information to design a three-year working plan to reduce the euthanasia rate. After much discussion on whether to accept and present the plan to the City Manager and City Council, there was no consensus on agreement.

Motion: Motion was made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Barbara Candelaria to submit any changes to Catherine Fagan within a week and to postpone any further action on the plan at this time. The sole agenda item for next month’s meeting will be the Plan to reduce euthanasia. Motion passed

Ayes: Robert Melson, Regina Wagner, Barbara Candelaria, Betty Hoover, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Marcia Margherio

Nays: Linda Krasowski, Peggy Edman

5. Discussion and Action on New Business

a. Determination on whether the Education/Outreach subcommittee has officially reorganized.

Robert Melson inquired about the status of the Education/Outreach subcommittee.

Peggy Edman confirmed that there are two members: Barbara Candelaria and herself.

Motion: No Action Taken

b. Updating telephone/email information for Committee Members

Robert Melson suggested on having the members update any information, such as their email and/or telephone if necessary.

Motion: No Action Taken

c. Discussion and action on the processes of response by AS to calls to investigate neglect and abuse animals.

Linda Krasowski suggested postponing her item for the May meeting. Regina Wagner suggested having Dr. Johnsen's agenda item from last month added to the May meeting as well.

Motion: No Action Taken

d. Combining information with Animal Services when Environmental Services gives their presentation to local schools including Science classes.

Barbara Candelaria mentioned that she is interested in composing a curriculum for 5 to 10 minute presentations on animal enrichment for the Environmental Services

6. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:10 PM was made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Regina Wagner.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman: _____

