



**Mayor**  
Oscar Leaser

**City Council**

*District 1*  
Peter Svarzbein

*District 2*  
Jim Tolbert

*District 3*  
Emma Acosta

*District 4*  
Carl L. Robinson

*District 5*  
Dr. Michiel R. Noe

*District 6*  
Claudia Ordaz

*District 7*  
Lily Limón

*District 8*  
Cortney C. Niland

**City Manager**  
Tommy Gonzalez

**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**  
**June 8, 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 Bob Melson-Chairperson.

<b>Board Member A.S.A.C.</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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, Dr. Christensen  
Romie Ruiz, Hugo Navarro, Renee Rojas, Maribel Karisch

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC May 11, 2016 minutes.

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

**Motion made by Cecilia Carpio and seconded by Catherine Fagan to accept the May 11, 2016 minutes.**

**Ayes: Betty Hoover, Catherine Fagan, Robert Melson, Barbara Candelaria, Cecilia Carpio, Regina Wagner, Janice Nutt**

**Nays: None**



**Abstain: Dr. Guy Johnsen**

**3. Call to Public**

- a. Public member Linda Krasowski expressed several concerns to the committee: the drugs that were missing and the key that was not accounted for, the 2,900 missing dogs in 2015, the quarantine mix up, no record of sick animals, adopted dogs with distemper, the lack of adoption events while the van sits in the back of the shelter not being used, rude staff and the newspaper article from May 11, 2016 mentioning that a citizen was told to do whatever he wanted with the cat he trapped by shelter staff. She also suggested having a national search for someone who is experienced in NO-KILL.
- b. Public member Patricia Johnsen expressed concern over the large quantity of cats still being killed in spite of having 4 vets working and how Juarez is doing a better job with an \$8,000,000 budget. She also expressed that in 2008 the city was offering free spay/neuter. She added that there's a need for a more competent leadership.

**4. Reports of Special Committees (Select and Ad Hoc)**

**a. Free Roaming Cats**

Regina Wagner thanked the Animal Services staff and Officers for their efforts to have Sun City Cats assist with different situations. The Officers are getting involved and educating the community. An example is when Sun City Cats was alerted to help foster some kittens that would have otherwise been euthanized. She also mentioned that some citizens who have been helped with the nuisances of cats in their yard are thanking and praising Sun City Cats for their solutions.

The informational TNR door hangers will be distributed throughout the community by Animal Control Officer and volunteers. Officer Bell from El Paso Police Department who is in charge of the neighborhood watch program has agreed to inform the association captains to have the TNR door hangers distributed to inform the community. Educational flyer titled "Look but don't touch" was developed to inform public about not taking kittens when the mother isn't around. There was also a video on the monthly TNR events.

**b. Public Education, Outreach, and Responsible Ownership**

Barbara Candelaria mentioned that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July flyer from last year was revised and will be distributed as well as the flyer warning not to leave your dogs in a hot car. The flyer will be distributed to local pet stores, Vet offices and groomers. She also mentioned that Chief Wiles complemented Kurt Fenstermacher on all the new changes going on at Animal Services. She also



expressed how amazing her visit to Animal Services was; where the line to adopt were longer than the line to surrender.

## **5. Unfinished Business and General Order**

### **a. Animal Services Monthly Operations Report**

Kurt Fenstermacher gave a presentation on the updates at Animal Services. These updates included:

1. The approval by City Council to discontinue loaning out cat traps to the public effective April 3, 2016 and also the Animal Care Officers stopped picking up cats in traps from the public effective April 17, 2016.
2. The shelter now has a community cats room which is more accessible when bringing and returning cats
3. TNR totals for May 2016 were 170
4. Animal Care Officers are part of the Department of Animal Services and the night shift is returning community Cats
5. Plan to have Animal Care Officers patrolling only the city in October
6. Cat adoptions for the Month of June were \$20.00
7. No Kill, No Fee event on June 11, 2016 for dogs
8. Pet of the week "Kiko" was sponsored by El Paso Harold Post
9. Kurt is talking to Dog Cruces editor on possibly having an El Paso issue in the fall.
10. Adoptions for May were a combination of 506 and during the Construction Reduction Adoption event there were 151 adoptions between June 3-5.
11. Community engagement on tile painting. Mosaic Mural was started on June 8<sup>th</sup> and will take about a week to complete by 2 artists and will be displayed an outside wall entering the kennels
12. There are several paintings around the shelter from the Museum of culture affairs.
13. There are 10 interviews this week for several positions to include the community Cats and TNR Coordinator, vet tech and public affair specialist
14. Customer service improvements: Secret shopper was implemented in May and will report on facility, restrooms, staff and volunteers, animals and proficiency of services.
15. Discussions with these organizations to help grow the program are in process: Target Zero PetCo Foundation Petsmart , Best Friends Austin Pets alive Alley Cat Allies, Meadows Foundations
16. Partnerships with Clint ISD, EPISD, DARS-job skills development program, County of El Paso Sheriff's Office, Ruff Tail Runners (ASPCA grant program)



17. Facility improvements: Sally Port/Adoption area/ Front Entrance remodel, New kennels system, industrial washer and dishwasher, Phone System, internal CCTV Camera and the dog play area is complete
18. Ordinances changes: To Title 7, Title 20, Title 3, Title 10 and Title 6
19. Updates for Petpoint onsite evaluations: Petpoint go live on June 23, Socorro clinic opens June 27-\$50.00 for Pit bulls
20. Strategic Planning session: proposed to be held on a Saturday to include sexual harassment training.

#### **Animal Services Statistics Report**

Total release rate for May 2016 was 43% with animals still in process

- b. **Discussion and action on the Texas Department of the State Health Services standards for euthanasia and El Paso Animal Services euthanasia practices.**  
Item was tabled for next month's meeting
- c. **Discussion and action on proposal that ASAC evaluate and make recommendations to City Council to improve EPAS internal operations and reduce operational inefficiencies**  
Item was tabled for next month's meeting

#### **6. New Business**

- a. **Discussion of the ASAC's duties and responsibilities as set forth in Title 7**  
Josette Flores went over Title 7 for ASAC and Chapter 8.23 under the Texas Health and Safety Code. She also informed the committee about the importance of communication amongst all members. Discussions should be kept at the actual meeting under the open meetings act and all material to be discussed should be forwarded to Animal Services staff to distribute to all the members.
- b. **Update on Municipal Code changes to Department of Animal Services**  
Karl Rumcus gave an update presentation on ordinances. One of the updates is update the Rabies Control Authority and to have a secondary on-duty Vet as a back-up at shelter when the primary is not available. A proposal to change the definitions of pet shops kennels and vet centers to Animal Facility (indoor enclosures) and Animal Facility (outdoor enclosures) in Title 20 will be presented to City Council.



In Title 7, the proposed changes are: the transport of animals in open vehicle beds, procedures for dogs that have attacked, remove dead animals from private property, replace animal establishment with Animal Facility, include care and use standards for outdoor enclosures. These Title 7 revisions began in 2015, with Title 20 proposed on May 2016 to City Manager. Proposed presentation to City Council for approval will be late summer 2016.

Kurt Fenstermacher also advised to call 911 for any standards of care cases.

- c. **Discussion and action proposal that ASAC recommend EPAS implement a proactive and comprehensive low cost Parvo/Distemper vaccination for the public.**

Item was tabled for next month's meeting

**7. Adjournment**

Motion made by Cecilia Carpio and seconded by Betty Hoover to adjourn the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:54 pm.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. J. H.", is written over a horizontal line.