



Animal Services

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Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes July 12, 2017

1. A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the City Council Chambers and was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Dr. Guy Johnsen-Chairperson.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Janice Nutt		x
Dr. Guy Johnsen	x	
Cecilia Carpio	x	
Marcia Margherio	x	
Robert Melson	x	
Regina Wagner	x	
Barbara Candelaria		x
Amanda Herrera	x	
Vacant		
Vacant		
Vacant		

Animal Services staff present: Kurt Fenstermacher, Gina Ramirez, Sally Singleton and Maribel Karisch

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. **Reading and approval of minutes**

Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC June 14, 2017 minutes.

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

Motion made by Robert Melson and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to accept the June 14, 2017.

Ayes: Dr. Guy Johnsen, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Regina Wagner, Cecilia Carpio, Amanda Herrera

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"Delivering Outstanding Services"



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Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. **Chairman Remarks**

Dr. Guy Johnsen mentioned that speakers will be allowed to comment on any of new business agenda items and call to public. They will be limited to speak for 3 minutes per topic. The time can be extended if one of the committee members wants to ask questions or have a conversation. The chairman has the right to interrupt and redirect the conversation if it goes off topic.

The ASAC guidebook is currently being worked on by a committee consisting of animal services staff: Michele Anderson (media specialist), Maribel Karisch and Kurt Fenstermacher. The guidebook is scheduled to be completed within 30 to 60 day.

The El Paso Animal Shelter Foundation is still working on getting members for the Board of Directors, the foundation has not yet received the 501c3 status from the state. The process takes a few months to complete.

There are still vacancies on the ASAC committee that need to be filled and two are mayoral appointments which the mayor's office will work right away to fill. He also mentioned that once the new city council members get settled, the committee will be able to have a quorum quicker.

4. **Reports of Special Committees, Animal Services, Rescue Groups and Shelters**

a. ***Free Roaming Cats-***

Regina Wagner mentioned in her report that TNR was first introduced in Britain in the 1950s and to Denmark and the United States in the 1970s. TNR remained underground until the formation Alley Cat Allies in 1990. Sun City Cats is proud to join the TNR movement that's gaining momentum in the United States and taking root around world. The TNR movement is helping to reduce the number of cats entering city shelters and helping the community to humanely manage the population free roaming cats.

The National Feral Cat Day will change its name to Global Feral Cat Day this year due to the movement's goal to help cats all over the world.

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Sun City Cats is preparing to celebrate Global Feral Cat Day on October 16th with TNR events, community outreach, educational events and a volunteer appreciation day. A schedule of events will be announced once available.

Sun City Cats thanked the volunteers and animal services staff for this the spaying and neutering of 64 cats at the Socorro clinic in July. Sun City cats is also setting up TNR teams in different parts of the city in efforts of reaching their goal of having a chain reaction across the city.

Sun City cats is expanding their audience and can now be reached on Instagram.

b. *Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Ownership*

No report. Barbara Candelaria was not present.

c. *Community Cat Ad hoc Committee*

Dr. Johnsen mentioned that the Final Report was completed and thanked the members for their contributions. The report was sent to all ASAC members and will now be forwarded to the Regional Animal Overpopulation Ad Hoc Committee.

d. *Rescue Agency/ Limited Shelter Report*

None

e. *Department of Animal Services Report*

Kurt Fenstermacher started the presentation with the July PawCast. He went over the Animal Shelter Count Report for June: the live release rate for June was 64.65%. It was 65.13% for dogs and 64.12% for cats. The euthanasia rate was 29.87%. For the fiscal year, the live release rate was 70.18% and for the calendar year, it was 74.22%. Intakes for June were 2678 and the outcomes for June were 2795.

He gave an update on the 2018 budget. Team 8 will be presenting on July 10th. There are eight new positions being requested for the continuing three-year recommendations from the shelter reform task force. The annual FY18 budget request is \$10.1M. There will be additional public hearings set for July and August, dates are pending. Kurt Fenstermacher introduced Sally Singleton, Rescue Transfer Program Coordinator. She mentioned in her presentation that the DAS rescue program is striving to reduce the number of animals in the shelter and reach the goal of 90% live release rate by 2020. In the efforts in reaching their goal, the program will be transferring animals to rescue groups, finding foster homes for healthy animals to be transported, transferring to out-of-state rescue groups, which will save lives and reduce euthanasia.

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The program continues to grow with 41 rescue groups locally and 22 out of state compared to 19 rescue groups in 2016. The rescue groups are either breed specific or mixed breeds.

In 2016 the Humane Society rescued 503, Dames for Dogs 200, Enchanted Pass and Forever Homes 140 each. Compared to 2017, the Humane Society has taken 1130, Enchanted Pass and Forever home have taken 240 each. Forever homes rescue group has been transporting out of state. In 2016 there were 2050 animals transferred after Animal Services took over the program. Currently, there are 1760 transferred animals so far.

The programs first official out-of-state transfer was when Positive Paws took 15 dogs, then Mutt Nation rescue group took 13 cats and 51 dogs. Animal services has a Ford transit that accommodates about 16 animals and an old dental unit that needs work. Animal services first transport was to Animal Shelter INC in Amarillo and they are getting ready to pull more animal.

The program is ready to launch Rescue 101 in September. Rescue 101 is a new class reaching out to the community on how to become a rescue partner.

Regina Wagner inquired as to why cats are not being pulled by the rescue groups. Sally Singleton explained that some of the rescue groups she is working with, are dog oriented, however Enchanted Pass has pulled several cats. Since Karen Burden has been doing an amazing job with the community cats program most of the cats are being released through the program. There is also a volunteer that takes cats to Petco. Vaccination certificates are being issued to the out-of-state rescue groups for animals being pulled.

Cecelia Carpio brought up a concern after several of her calls that she left for the vaccination clinic have yet to be returned. Kurt Fenstermacher explained then he would look into the matter and get back to the committee.

Amanda Herrera inquired about the process of "Check the Chip" event. Gina Ramirez explained that the owners had to provide proper identification, documentation for the microchip and the animal to be scanned before updating information. The events are alternately done at the shelter and at off site-events.

5. Call to the public

Member from the public Linda Krasowski mentioned that she is concerned with the disease at the shelter. She inquired on what type of training, supervision and procedures are in place. She also mentioned that it's time for an inspection from an independent agent since it's been two years since the

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last inspection. She recommended for ASAC to consider doing some of the duties she read from the bylaws of the animal care advisory board from San Antonio. She also recommended that the mayor appoint Claudia Ordaz to fill Dr. Noe's seat in ASAC. She also recommended that ASAC become accountable for the mandated responsibilities by the city and state.

Public Member Patricia Johnson representing the El Paso animal advocacy mention to the committee about two cases where two dogs died of distemper and passed copies of the comments on Facebook.

6. New Business-Main Discussion of Meeting

a. Discussion and action on on the establishment of the Regional Animal Over-Population Ad Hoc Committee

Dr. Johnsen suggested inviting other stakeholders to the meetings,

Motion was made by Robert Melson and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to table item 6a.

Ayes: Dr. Johnsen, Cecilia Carpio, Amanda Herrera, Regina Wagner, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson

Nays: None

b. Discussion and action on the engagement of a Strategic Plan for ASAC

Marcia Margherio mentioned that ASAC can develop a plan however working the plan is missing and in her opinion the best strategic plan is the one Animal Services has. Cecilia Carpio suggested developing a plan that includes education, vaccination and to save lives. Robert Melson suggested not to call a meeting until the committee is complete.

Motion was made by Robert Melson and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to table item 6b.

Ayes: Dr. Johnsen, Cecilia Carpio, Amanda Herrera, Regina Wagner, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson

Nays: None

c. Discussion and action on development of a "Pet Responsibility" educational seminar as a judiciary option actions by courts of law

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Gina Ramirez explained that PAWedu is online educational program to help pet owners better understand animal laws and the responsibility of pet ownership. The course can be either taken to remove a minor find or as an addition to a fine if court ordered. The course is simple to navigate and the cost is \$25. After successfully completing the course, a certificate we'll generate to print. The course is comparable to a defensive driving course. The program consists of the three courses: Responsible Pet Ownership, Pet Responsibility, General Animal Welfare and each course has at least 15 sub-section. Animal services is in the process of introducing the PAWedu to all the city state ordinances. A meeting is scheduled with the city prosecutor to present the program to the new municipal judge Michelle Morales. The program as scheduled to be implemented by September 1 2017. She also gave an update on the Animal Cruelty Task Force in which Animal Services and the El Paso Police detectives recently met and are currently on the development of the Animal Cruelty Task Force.

Public member Linda Krasowski suggested that ASAC goes to the budget meetings to support the creation of the Animal Cruelty Task Force.

- d. Discussion and action to establish an internal policy for who shall speak with the media on behalf of the Committee**

Motion was made by Robert Melson and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to table item 6d.

Ayes: Dr. Johnsen, Cecilia Carpio, Amanda Herrera, Regina Wagner, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson

Nays: None

- e. Discussion and action on a letter to City Council asking to expand ASAC advisory duties to advise AND assist the EPAS in order to advance the City's progressive commitment of saving 90% of adoptable and treatable shelter animals by 2020**

Marcia Margherio started her discussions with a question to ASAC members: Why are we on this committee? The answer is for the animals. She passed out a letter to members that she would like to send to the mayor and city council. Marcia mention that the committee is preoccupied with minor things instead of serious issues and ASAC should be proactive working to help the animals at the shelter and help reduce the euthanasia rate. In the letter, she's asking City council to expand ASAC duties to become an action committee.

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Dr. Johnsen mentioned that ASAC should be a liaison by helping and giving support and not be inspectors.

Public member Linda Krasowski suggested picking one issue and work on resolving it.

Public member Patricia Johnson mention that she hopes that in the future the committee is willing to take action and make a difference for the animals.

Public member Ken Margherio suggested getting or findings an issue that animal services currently has and go City Council to get the point across/

Public member Susanne Graham mentioned that ASAC should help Animal Services as much as possible.

f. Discussion and action on a letter to City Council to request they recommit to support the January 2016 resolution to reform EPAS in pursuit of the Live Release Rate of 90% or better by or before 2020

Marcia Margherio mentioned that since there's a new mayor and City Council, ASAC should have them recommit to the Resolution of 2016. She passed another letter to members.

Amanda Herrera agrees to ask the mayor and City Council to recommit to the resolution of having 99% live release rate by 2020.

Dr. Johnsen suggested using wording from the letter and write a new letter with Kurt Fenstermacher. The letter will then be sent to ASAC members for approval. After approval then the letter will be sent to City Council.

Public member Linda Krasowski thanked Marcia for writing the letter, she suggested that all ASAC members present to the Mayor and City Council.

7. Motion was made by Robert Melson and seconded by Cecilia Carpio to adjourn the July 14, 2017 meeting at 8:27 pm.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Powell", is written over a horizontal line.

Paula Powell