



**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
Minutes
January 14, 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 Betty Hoover, Vice- 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 December 10, 2014 minutes.

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

Motion made by Robert Melson and seconded by Dr. Guy Johnsen to accept the December 10, 2014 minutes.

Ayes: Robert Melson, Guy Johnson, Linda Krasowski, Barabara Candelaria, Marcia Margherio, Peggy Edman, Betty Hoover, Patricia Gonzalez.

Abstain: Regina Wagner

Nays: None

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3. Discussion by Legal:

Josette Flores went over the duties of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee from the Health and Safety Code and Title 7-Chapter 7.28. Josette advised that as a committee they are to advise City Council and address the needs and animal welfare issues. She also advised the committee on the practices and violations of the Open Meeting Act.

Motion: No Action Taken

4. Election for a new Chairperson

Betty Hoover moved item #6 to item #4 . Betty asked if there were any nomination for Chairperson. Dr. Guy Johnsen nominated Robert Melson and he accepted.

Motion was made by Betty Hoover; all in favor of having Robert Melson as chairperson.

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

Betty Hoover also announced that she was resigning from Vice-Chairperson. Robert Melson nominated Linda Krasowski for Vice-Chairperson and she accepted.

Motion was made by Robert Melson; all in favor of having Linda Krasowski as Vice-Chairperson.

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

5. Call to Public

- a. Member of the public Dr. Waldrup, Veterinarian and Public Health Official inquired about the \$45.00 fee that is being charged to Veterinarians to have animals picked up from their clinics for rabies testing. Robert Melson advised Ellen Smyth to have a clarification for next month's meeting.

- b. Member of the public Jennifer Wegmann mentioned that she is most concerned with how animals are being handled at the shelter. She had been inquiring about the status of a severely sick dog and hadn't received an answer. She also mentioned that pledges in the amount of \$5,000.00 were collected to help the dog. She asked the committee members that how can the public address the same situation in the future. Robert Melson advised to continue discussion after the meeting. Ellen Smyth requested phone number from Jennifer Wegman.
- c. Member of the public Patricia Johnson inquired about the protocol in the adoption process of sick animals at Animal Services. She also mentioned that Mesilla Valley, New Mexico adopts out sick animals and Robert Melson added that other states have different adoption procedures. Regina added that through Title 7 Ordinance, Animal Services is not allowed to release sick animals.
- d. Member of the public Lizza Campos advised the committee that the public needs to be educated on the differences between Animal Services and Humane Society. She feels that if the public is made aware of what happens at Animal Services, the euthanasia rate would decrease.

6. Discussion and action of where ASAC is, what it's purpose is and where it's going

Robert Melson mentioned that he has several thoughts about where the committee is going. He expressed that within the last 31/2 years the committee has been trying to be an activist committee. The committee was established to oversee animal welfare issues under Title seven and to advice City Council which they haven't done, he added. He proposed to begin looking at Title 7 with the intension on making recommendation for improvements. He also proposed to have the plan that the Subcommittee to reduce euthanasia is working on to be used as the framework and filtered to Ellen Smyth and Dr. Christensen, to be used as a requirement for creating the plan to achieve a No Kill goal. He advised the committee that they need to have a different approach, set goals and to carry out their basic function of advising the Mayor and City Council.

Motion: No Action Taken

7. Discussion and action on Sub-committees' reports:

a. Free Roaming Cats-Chairperson Regina Wagner

Regina Wagner mentioned that the committee is in the final review of several nationwide ordinances in which their focus will be on changing the Law. The review will be forwarded to Environmental Services within the upcoming weeks. The committee is happy to announce that Dr. Medina has joined the efforts and will be offering unlimited discounted spay and neuter for the free-roaming cats under the SCC TNR program every Wednesday. She also mentioned that the committee is grateful for the veterinarians who have brought positive change in the communities. The public needs to utilize the vet services that are being offered and encourages everyone to help spread the word about the participating vets across the city. A list of vets, including costs and services is available on their website. The committee is requesting that the public get involved in bringing change to the communities with the following: Increase neighborhood awareness, information booths and Television/Newspaper Ads. Regina Wagner added that their current volunteers cannot sustain the entire city therefore the committee is requesting that the colony managers Pay It Forward. A meeting will be scheduled with known colony managers to discuss the Pay It Forward initiative and what is expected of a good colony manager. Regina Wagner advised that the committee is in dire need of volunteers on the Westside and anyone willing to participate, please contact Sun City Cats at help@suncitycats.org

b. Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Pet Ownership

No report was provided

c. Subcommittee to reduce the euthanasia rate in El Paso

Regina Wagner explained that the Subcommittee has commenced writing a draft plan, however due to problems with inaccurate statistics; one recommendation would be to hire an outside expert. The expert will review current practices and procedures, including the software presently used to ensure accurate tracking of all animals entering the shelter.

Motion: No Action Taken

8. Discussion and action on Open Item Tracking Sheet

Linda Krasowski recommended that the committee go back to include Old Business on the agenda.

Motion was made by Linda Krasowski to dissolve the use of the Open and Close Tracking Log and to add Old Business to cover items that were not completed on the previous meeting. Seconded by Guy Johnsen.

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

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:38 P. M. by Robert Melson and seconded by Marcia Margherio

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved A.S.A.C. Chairman



Ellen A. Smyth, Director

Environmental Services Department

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