



**Mayor**

Oscar Leeser

**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**

**November 11, 2015**

**City Council**

*District 1*

Peter Svarzbein

*District 2*

Larry Romero

*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

1. A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the Animal Services Conference Room 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	
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	
Bobby Brannon	X	

Environmental Services staff present: Dr. Marilyn Christensen, Maribel Karisch; City Manager’s Office: Kurt Fenstermacher

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC October 14, 2015 minutes.

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

**Motion made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Catherine Fagan to accept the October 14, 2015 minutes.**

**Ayes: Peggy Edman, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Betty Hoover, Catherine Fagan, Robert Melson, Dr. Michiel Noe, Barbara Candelaria, Cecilia Carpio, Marcia Margherio, Bobby Brannon, Regina Wagner**

**Ayes:** Peggy Edman, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Betty Hoover, Catherine Fagan, Robert Melson, Dr. Michiel Noe, Barbara Candelaria, Cecilia Carpio, Marcia Margherio, Bobby Brannon

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** Regina Wagner,

### 3. Call to Public

- a. Public member Linda Krasowski inquired about the follow-up on the ordinance for the committee members' terms. Dr. Noe explained that he spoke to the city attorney; however he wants to be clear and not step over any boundaries. He will present more information for next month's meeting.
- b. Public member Patricia Johnson inquired about whether the Humane Society is doing something for the El Paso community with the adoption proceeds. Catherine Fagan mentioned that since the Humane Society is a private organization, they are not obligated to use any of their City proceeds towards any services. Ms. Johnson also distributed a flyer to the committee members for an outreach event sponsored by the Juarez Health Department.
- c. Public member mentioned that there should be more public announcements on outreach events sponsored by Animal Services and suggested to get flyers of upcoming events so that he can post them at the store he works at. Robert Melson added that most advertising of events have been publicized.

**Motion: No motion taken**

### 4. Reports of special (select and ad hoc) committees

- a. Regina Wagner mentioned in her presentation that El Paso has a long way to go on trying to change the mindset of the public to understand that cats are not disposable and in order to decrease euthanasia, the whole community must get involved. She also thanked ESD for their efforts on having the town hall meetings and also for supporting Alley Cat Allies visit and inviting Target Zero.

Sun City Cats is educating colony managers with the Best Practices for Colony Managers pamphlet which was developed with the help of Alley Cat Allies. Sun City Cats hopes the pamphlets will be distributed by Animal Services, Animal Control Officers, and Vet clinics and can be downloaded from the Sun City Cats website: [suncitycats.org](http://suncitycats.org)

Sun City Cats is grateful for Dr. Christensen, Karen Burden and the entire surgical team for the last two mass trapping events. Last month, in celebration of National Feral Cat Day, a mass trapping was completed and 32 cats were TNRed.

Sun City Cats is also in need of fosters to take care of free roaming kittens that have been left behind and also for friendly cats caught in the crossfire of TNR.

Regina Wagner concluded by mentioning that it's a long road ahead for TNR, however progress has been made and the community must be taught that animals are not disposable, there are alternatives to dumping, poisoning and euthanizing.

**Motion: No action Taken**

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

Barbara Candelaria mentioned that she needs volunteers to help distribute the Thanksgiving and Christmas Pet Safety flyers. Betty Hoover volunteered to help by sending the flyer to the Paso Times Editor. Catherine Fagan suggested having the flyer emailed to ASAC members to help distribute on different sides of town.

**Motion: No Action Taken**

**5. Unfinished business and general orders**

**a. Animal Services Monthly Operations Report**

- i. Dr. De La Torre has returned from Jacksonville, FL. after a week of high volume surgery skills training at No More Homeless Animal Clinic.
- ii. One of the storage rooms at the shelter was reorganized to create an additional room for the feral cats. The room was named the Community Cat Room.

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- iii. Kurt Fenstermacher thanked Betty Hoover for the combined efforts of 93 adoptions between the Humane Society and Animal Services. The Humane Society is still under a month to month contract with Animal Services.
- iv. Emily Mckinny presented Animal Services with \$100.00 from money she raised by selling homemade ice-cream. The money was raised to help sponsor a dog after she was surprised by having the adoption fee paid by someone else.

**Motion: No Action Taken**

**a. Animal Services Statistics**

Kurt Fenstermacher explained that there are 3 reasons why the numbers don't add up on the statistics report: DOA's are counted as impoundments; duplicate records that are created by the front counter and kennel staff and even though they are deleted or cancelled, the records remain in the system; and through the cloning process: a record might be cloned one or more too many times and then remains in the report.

**Motion: No Action**

**b. Presentation on the update of the City Task Force**

Kurt Fenstermacher gave a presentation on Best Practices from different shelter which the city task force visited. The first shelter they visited was Irvin Animal Services/Dallas Fort Worth Humane Society which operates side by side. Irvin Animal Services uses Pet point software, intakes about 8000 animals a year and has not euthanized for space in the last three years.

Next, they visited Code Compliance Animal Care and Control in Fort Worth which intakes about 20,000-25,000 animals a year, down from 38,000-45,000. Their huge focus is in decreasing intakes by returning to owner out in the field. Their return to owner percentage rate has increased from 5% to 85%. They also use Pet point software. Austin Pet's Alive helped Fort Worth reach their live release rate by adopting out the sick and injured. This shelter is volunteer driven and logs in about 2000 hours per week.

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Then, they visited Yavapai Humane Society in Prescott, AZ which has 97% live release rate. The shelter impounds about 4000 animals per year and is leaning on becoming NO KILL. This shelter is also volunteer driven.

Finally, they visited Maricopa County Animal Care and Control. This shelter has 167 fulltime staff; includes field officers. They have about 1000 volunteers that log in about 30,000 hours per year. The shelter intakes 36,000 animals per year and has a 97% live release rate. The building has a photo studio to take presentable photo for adoptions. The shelter is huge on community outreach.

**Motion: No Action Taken**

- c. Discussion of recommendations from committee members to City Task Force**  
Robert Resendes, from the city task force, asked the committee members for their recommendations:

Marcia Margherio recommended having the shelter disease outbreaks resolved so that more healthy animals can be adopted and transferred to rescue groups.

Peggy Edman had several recommendations: 1. to have more cooperation regarding animal issues between the city of El Paso and the County. 2. to look at the state laws for animals from a broader perspective. 3. to encourage more volunteer recruitment 4. to have more communication between city staff and ASAC members. 5. for Animal Services to have a community outreach program with the help of the city. 6. for Mayor Leaser to take a tour of the shelter.

Catherine Fagan made the following recommendations: 1. to include Fort Bliss on the animal issues. 2. To start with the community's participation and involvement to help with the animal issues. 3. Recruitment of volunteers and fosters. 4. The City, Animal Services, ASAC, and the rescue groups need to work together. 5. to build another shelter that is convenient for the community. 6. To create an ordinance for spay and neuter. 7. to spay/neuter in lieu of fine.

Dr. Guy Johnsen recommended: 1. Plenty of money and people for improved animal welfare. 2. Incentives for volunteer recruitment. 3. Better software for statistics. 4. Get corporate money involved. 5. Better customer service

Robert Melson made the following recommendation: 1. Propaganda campaign-more advertising that carries the message (quick attention getters) 2. Less bureaucracy in the volunteer process. 3. Involvement of the churches and other service organizations (Rotary Club) 4. for City Council to tour the shelter. 5. public education on the euthanasia problem-responsible pet ownership. 6. Having greater involvement from county government in Title 7.

Regina Wagner recommended: 1. Public education on where to go find a lost pet. 2. Public education to teach the public that animals are not disposable. 3. Change the laws on community cats. 4. Place a specific time and day to relinquish animals. 5. Code Animal Control Officers need to be present and more community involved. 6. The fostering of sick and disabled animals. 7. To be a liaison with Fort Bliss.

Bob Brannon recommended: 1. Animal Services needs to be more visible to the community. 2. Hire a volunteer coordinator to educate the community on how Animal Services operates.

Barbara Candelaria had several recommendations: 1. More volunteer involvement and to utilize Fort Bliss. 2. Set up more play areas. 3. For Humane Society and Animal Services to use the same equipment. 4. Volunteers can help out as adoption counselors. 5. Create programs to help pet owners with fees (community service) 6. Hire animal trainers 7. Have a pet of the week on the media.

Dr. Michiel Noe recommended: 1. Focus on the main leadership and relationships. 2. Having the whole community involved and working towards a common goal. 3. For ASAC to work together towards a common goal. 4. Advertising outreaches through and outside agency. 5. Develop corporate relationships. 6. Have a strong leadership

Mr. Sutter mentioned that even though some of the recommendations are process issues and others financial issues, this is the best opportunity to make some progress.

**Motion: No Action Taken**

**7. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm was made by Dr. Guy Johnsen and Seconded by Peggy Edman.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

