



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

*Dedicated to Outstanding Customer Service for a Better Community*

SERVICE SOLUTIONS SUCCESS



### Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

#### Minutes

November 13, 2013

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 6:08 p.m. by Dr. Roger Freund, Chairperson.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Dr. Roger Freund	X	
Patricia Gonzalez	X	
Betty Hoover	X	
Linda Krasowski		X
Marcia Margherio	X	
Robert Melson	X	
Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly	X	
Janice Nutt	X	
Eddie Sandoval		X
Regina Wagner	X	

Environmental Services staff present: Kurt Fenstermacher, Luis Rios, Elda R. Heffner, Rose Janice, Larry Brunt, Sandra Pellegrini.

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC October 9, 2013 minutes.

Committee members were asked if there were any questions or revisions. No corrections were requested.

**Motion made by Regina Wagner and seconded by Janice Nutt to accept the October 9, 2013 minutes as is.**

**Ayes:** Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Janice Nutt, Regina Wagner.

Ellen A. Smyth, Director

Environmental Services Department

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##### District 6

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##### District 7

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#### City Manager

Joyce A. Wilson

**Nays:** None.

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

- a. Free Roaming Cats chairperson Regina Wagner provided an update on Sun City Cats activities and efforts to increase public participation. Ms. Wagner advised that the group continues to participate in activities related to the national feral cat month. Sun City Cats is compiling and updating a list of nearly 95 colony managers to share with Animal Services. Ms. Wagner expressed her gratitude to local participating veterinarians for their contributions to the feral cat program, to Animal Services for their endless job, to colony managers and all those who assist with feral cat efforts. Ms. Wagner advised that distribution of supplies and shelters continues, and requested potential volunteers to be referred to their website or to call their number. Dr. Roger Freund inquired about the number of cats that have been processed by Sun City Cats; Ms. Wagner advised that those numbers were not available.

**Motion: No action taken.**

- b. Public Education, Outreach, and Responsible Pet Ownership chairperson Patricia Gonzalez did not provide a report at this meeting. Ms. Gonzalez inquired if Animal Services intended to visit schools next year to provide information on animal issues. Ms. Gonzalez advised that some people have knowledge on TNR, but for the most part there is no common knowledge or information available to illustrate how the program works. Dr. Roger Freund proposed Ms. Gonzalez could contact the Animal Services volunteer coordinator and suggested that handing out informational pamphlets to the public could be a good start.

**Motion: No action**

4. Discussion and action on group ideas and suggestions to improve animal welfare with the goal of saving lives.

Marcia Margherio advised of the intention to gather different ideas from committee members to improve animal welfare. Robert Melson informed that a request to include number of cats and jurisdictions on the stats reports provided by Animal Services had been made. Regina Wagner voiced her concern about the low number of felines that are microchipped. Dr. Roger Freund advised that pet owners should be responsible to register their pets nationwide, Betty Hoover suggested that staff should provide that information to pet owners. Regina Wagner explained importance of implanting a microchip on feral cats, since it allows tracking animals and ensuring they are vaccinated against rabies, task currently carried by Animal Services. Some suggestions included increasing the number of microchipped cats; working with military members to help them in recovering their pets; implementing new strategies to reduce number of animals impounded and increasing the number of live releases. Robert Melson advised that lack of public education and budget constraints are the main reason why those goals have not been achieved. Marcia Margherio inquired about alternative options for action that would not depend only on funding, such as returning animals to their owners on the field and to establish a billing system and/or payment plan to help pet owners who are unable to pay the entire amount due to reclaim their pets. Dr. Roger Freund inquired if a suggestion should be made to city council, Kurt Fenstermacher advised that fees can only be waived by city council, but did agree that a payment plan could be considered. The establishment of a hotline to provide information to the public was recommended. It was also mentioned that Animal Services should be more proactive in contacting pet owners. Dr. Roger Freund advised that shelter stats and disposition of Animal Services staff shows a positive change.

**Motion: No action taken.**

5. Discussion on update to progress made since 1999 and 2006 “No Kill” – City Reports/Designations.

Dr. Roger Freund inquired if anyone read the document sent by him, and advised that it was suggested by Catherine Fagan that a goal to decrease the number of euthanized animals by a certain percentage each year should be made instead than a no-kill commitment. It was suggested to work with rescue groups to get them more involved on these efforts. Dr. Roger Freund recognized that many of the recommendations made on the 2006 no-kill document are being implemented at this time by Animal Services and are producing results. Marcia Margherio suggested a goal and a timeline to be set in place, Dr. Roger Freund suggested waiting for a period of six months to review data and see if a significant improvement had been made. Robert Melson suggested making it city policy. Rep. Morgan-Lilly suggested that committee members should speak to city council members to expose their ideas. Janice Nutt proposed that each committee member should to request their respective city council member to visit and tour the shelter. Janice Nutt proposed a survey to be filled out by pet owners each time a pet is surrendered to Animal Services to track geographical data. Regina Wagner inquired on the reason why the \$20.00 adoption promotion held the previous weekend was not advertised, Kurt Fenstermacher advised that the adoption program is still in a testing phase.

**Motion made by Robert Melson and seconded by Ann Morgan-Lilly to invite city council members to visit and tour the Animal Shelter.**

**Ayes:** Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Janice Nutt, Regina Wagner.

**Nays:** None.

6. Discussion on Animal Services Statistics.

Committee members reviewed stats provided by Animal Services; Marcia Margherio requested other stats such as number of animals impounded, returned to owner and transferred to be included to report. Ms. Margherio mentioned that stat numbers seem to be improving; Kurt Fenstermacher advised that new programs recently implemented by Animal Services are the reason for that improvement.

**Motion: No action taken**

7. Update on the Socorro Building for the spay and neuter clinic.

Larry Brunt provided a report to committee members illustrating timelines, progress, and approval of NSNRT (National Spay and Neuter Response Team) certification and invitation sent to Animal Services to join. Mr. Brunt advised that the clinic must meet criteria set by NSNRT; among the steps to be taken to meet those requirements, approval by city council must be obtained and surgical team certified by NSNRT must be put together. For the building, ASA Architects must provide design plans; bidding process must be completed and approved prior to starting construction. Upon completion, building and equipment inspections must be completed prior to starting operations. Mr. Brunt advised that the clinic is expected to be open and running by September 1, 2014.

**Motion: None**

8. Call to Public

- a. Connie Jimenez spoke about outreach efforts and 311 call center to promote animal welfare efforts in a bilingual setting.
- b. Member of the public suggested further education through partnerships with private companies to increase public outreach.
- c. Larry Brunt from Animal Services provided a status update on grants awarded from different sources to Animal Services, and advised that Animal Services has been awarded by Petsmart Charities grant to address feral cats under the TNR program on three zip codes (79907, 79915 and 79936).

9. Not having any more items of discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

**Prepared by:** Sandra Pellegrini, Animal Services

**Approved by:**   
A.S.A.C. Chairperson