



**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
Minutes
February 11, 2015**

Mayor
Oscar Leeser

City Council

District 1
Ann Morgan Lilly

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 Conference Room at the Animal Services Shelter 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
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 January 11, 2014 minutes.

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

Motion made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Marcia Margherio to accept the January 11, 2014 minutes with corrections.

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

Nays: None

3. Call to Public

- a. Member of the public Ellie Elmer inquired about where the money that was budgeted for education went and whether it is was used. Ellen Smyth explained that the shelter is funded by the General Fund and if the budgeted money isn't used within that fiscal year, the money is returned to the fund and the whole process starts all over again. Ellie Elmer added whether this ASAC committee is going to be more proactive and involved in communicating with City Council.
- b. Member of the public inquired on how she will know whether communication between ASAC and City Council is actually taking place. Peggy Edman added that the item of communication with City Council could be placed on the agenda and minutes.
- c. Member of the public Charlie Moreno mentioned that as appointed members, they should try to go beyond expectation and not only meet the state's minimum requirements as ASAC committee members. Peggy Edman added that the committee wants more communication with City Council, would like to have the Mayor at the shelter, meet the new City manager, have higher visibility and overall have more communication.
- d. Member of the public Patricia Johnson inquired about whether the Humane Society is part of the city government. Betty Hoover explained that the Humane Society is a private, non-profit facility that is not part of the city government. Patricia Johnson also inquired about the Spay/Neuter Clinic. Ellen Smyth explained that the clinic is completed however it's not open because there is no veterinarian on site. Patricia requested to have a copy of the 2015 budget which Ellen will email.
- e. Member of the public inquired about the reason why there is no veterinarian for the clinic. Ellen Smyth explained that insufficient salary was the reason for declining the offer.

4. Discussion and Action on Old Business

- a. Progress on the Spay/ Neuter Clinic

The Spay/Neuter clinic is completed however the clinic is not open because there is no veterinarian on site. The latest applicants declined the offer due to insufficient salary, Ellen Smyth explained.

Motion: No Action Taken

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b. Discussion on Animal Services 2014 Statistics

Linda Krasowski inquired as to why the number of euthanasia and live releases did not total the number of impoundments. Ellen Smyth explained that the remaining animals are still in the system. Some are with fosters and others are still in the shelter. She also explained that the reason for the low euthanasia between December and January was due to fewer litters during the winter months and more off-site adoptions.

Motion: No Action Taken

c. Discussion and Action on Status of Rescue Partner inspections

Regina Wagner explained that Doggie-Do-Overs is located in Dale City and due to the fact that the population is less than 75K, they do not have to comply with State Law in regards to shelter inspections under Chapter 823. However, El Paso has the right to impose stricter guidelines and may state that they must be inspected. Regina mentioned that during the November 2014 meeting, ASAC discussed and voted unanimously to have Doggie-Do-Overs inspected either by utilizing the Z-3 form under Chapter 823.03 or by using another form of Standards of Care inspection within 60 days to maintain their rescue status. It is now past the 60 days. She also mentioned that after speaking with Dee Sanders of Doggie-Do-Overs there has been no on-site inspection as of today. Regina stated that there is not enough information known about Pause for Paws and in the November 2014 meeting, ASAC requested that Animal Services have them contact ASAC. To date there has been no contact with this rescue partner. The concern is how ASAC will accomplish their duties if they are unable to get any information. She added that Forgotten Friends was inspected by their veterinarian and worked with the local zoonosis control in Leande, Texas.

Motion: Motion was made by Peggy Edman and seconded by Patricia Gonzalez to ask Ellen Smyth to verify creditability of Doggie Do Overs and Pause for Paws and report back.

Ayes: Robert Melson, Linda Krasowski, Betty Hoover, Regina Wagner, Marcia Magherio, Peggy Edman, Patricia Gonzalez, Barbara Candelaria

Nays: None

5. Discussion and Action on New Business

a. Disband the feral cat and public education/outreach subcommittees

Linda Krasowski proposed to have the Free Roaming Cats and Public Education/ Outreach subcommittees disbanded and have them place their reports as an agenda item instead. Patricia Gonzalez announced her resignation as Chairperson of the Public Education/Outreach subcommittee. Regina Wagner stated that this item had been voted on and it was determined then to keep the sub-committees. She expressed her concern on why the subcommittees were taken off the agenda prior to a vote. Regina added that TNR is a key component in receiving grants and is the main source to reduce the euthanasia rate. After discussion, both subcommittees will remain. Peggy Edman volunteered to be part of the Public Education/ Outreach subcommittee. Linda Krasowski recommended that the structure of the Public Education subcommittee be reorganized. Barbara Candelaria is inquired about the Spay/Neuter bus ads which Ellen Smyth will look into.

Motion: No Action Taken

b. Report from Decrease Euthanasia Subcommittee

A draft of the working plan to reduce the euthanasia rate in El Paso is being reviewed for accuracy. The plan is not a No-Kill plan. The term “NO KILL” is very specific to the animal community and does not apply to this report. Once all fact checking is complete, a draft of the plan will be distributed to ASAC. A presentation and discussion was requested to take place in the April meeting due to scheduling conflicts by both Co-Chairpersons for the March ASAC meeting.

Motion: No Action Taken

c. Creation of a Title 7 review subcommittee/workgroup

Robert Melson suggested creating a subcommittee that would review Title 7 from the ASAC perspective. Ellen Smyth added that Environmental Services and Animal

Services staffs have been reviewing Title 7 and within the next three months all recommendations will be sent to legal. She also mentioned that ESD is looking at Title 7 from a practical approach of what they are doing today to what they would like to improve and enforce. Betty Hoover suggested having ASAC review ESD/AS recommendations instead of creating the subcommittee. She added that ASAC's role should be to focus on the legislative component for municipalities that affects shelters. Robert Melson withdrew his suggestion on the creation of the subcommittee and agreed to review the section in Title 7 that pertains to ASAC.

Motion: No Action Taken

d. Discussion of Animal Services Monthly Statistics

Ellen Smyth mentioned that the euthanasia rate for January 2015 was 44% compared to 52% in January 2014 and the live release was identical for both years. She added that the statistics since September 1st, 2014 are accurate. Linda Krasowski requested having a report of how many and what type of animal each rescue group is pulling on a monthly basis from Animal Services. Ellen Smyth will get the report.

Motion: No Action Taken

e. Animal Services Monthly Report

- i. Linda Krasowski inquired about the Euthanasia Certification Course that certified all 28 participants. Ellen Smyth explained that there were several kennel attendants who volunteered to take the course and are now certified to perform euthanasia. This will help alleviate the stress off other kennel attendants and Vet Techs on different shifts.
- ii. Ellen Smyth explained that Kurt Fenstermacher is working on the Lean 6 Sigma project as part of the city manager's training. The project consists on trying to find a more time efficient method for the Animal Control Officers to return to the field. Linda Krasowski requested to have Kurt explain the project upon completion.
- iii. Dr. Christensen will be in a conference trip in April. She will be attending the Humane Society of America Expo. On this trip, she will post the job opening

for the veterinarian position at the Socorro Spay/Neuter Clinic. After discussion on the job requirements, Ellen stated that they would consider new graduates for the position.

Motion: No Action Taken

f. Discussion and action on the development of a new member notebook

Item was not discussed. Dr. Guy Johnsen was not present.

Motion: No Action Taken

6. Discussion and Action on Special Items

a. Community Education: Pet Ownership Responsibility

Charlie Moreno spoke about implementing a four to six hour course on proper animal ownership. This course covers basic animal care, the licensing process, vaccinations, micro chipping within local and state laws. Participants will also be informed of what the differences are between the Humane Society and Animal Services. Mr. Moreno started offering classes in different parts of the city since 2008 with 40% of the participants being children. He was later hired by the Humane Society and gave his first class in April 2014 with 120 participants. The class that he held at the Richard Burges Library had over 200 participants. Mr. Moreno expressed that by educating children now, they will be able to make a positive change. He also advised the public to educate and spread the word on pet ownership responsibility.

7. Discussion and Action to move meetings to City Hall

Item was withdrawn by Ellen Smyth

Motion: No Action Taken

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:40 P. M. by Robert Melson and seconded by Patricia Gonzalez

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved A.S.A.C. Chairman


