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City Council

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District 2
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District 3
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Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6
Claudia Ordaz

District 7
Lily Limón

District 8
Cortney C. Niland

City Manager
Tommy Gonzalez

**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
Minutes
April 13, 2016**

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	

Animal Services staff present: Kurt Fenstermacher, Dr. Marilyn Christensen, Hugo Navarro, Abraham Muniz, Maribel Karisch

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC February 10, 2016 minutes.

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

Motion made by Cecilia Carpio and seconded by Peggy Edman to accept the February 10, 2016 minutes.

Ayes: Peggy Edman, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Betty Hoover, Robert Melson, Barbara Candelaria, Cecilia Carpio, Marcia Margherio, Rep. Dr. Michiel Noe

Nays: None

Kurt Fenstermacher – Interim Director
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“Delivering Outstanding Services”



3. Call to Public

- a. Public member Linda Krasowski asked who of the committee members read the inspection reports from Target Zero and San Diego. There were 5 members who read the report. Linda Krasowski read portions from the inspection report to include that Animal Services was unable to provide adequate statistics; labeling cats and dogs as aggressive without temperament assessment and there were 54 cats in the cat room without food, water and litter boxes. She also added that Animal Services doesn't have a foster program, hours for adopting are not convenient for the public, the adoption van isn't used, statistics aren't available at this meeting, statistics are not being posted on-line and asked ASAC to do their job by demanding corrective action reports.

4. Reports of Special Committees (Select and Ad Hoc)

a. Free Roaming Cats

Kurt Fenstermacher mentioned a couple of high lights from Regina Wagner's report who was unable to attend the meeting. The report mentioned that Sun City Cats was very happy to hear of City Council's approval of the Community Cat's Program on February 24, 2016. On an average the shelter has about 250 cats this time of year and now there are 60 to 90, thanks to the Community Cat's Program. Volunteer transporters have been delivering 60 cats a week back to the community. They are saving lives and helping Animal Services. There has been 4 spay and neuter events in which 110 cats (52 males and 58 females) had surgery, rabies vaccinated and micro-chipped with the help of Dr. Christensen, staff, volunteers and colony managers.

Sun City Cats designed the TNR informative door hangers with the help from Alley Cat Allies and distributed throughout the neighborhoods where TNR is taking place.

Kurt explained that there are 3 vets working at Animal Services with the 3rd vet still shadowing with Dr. Christensen and Dr. De la Torre. The 4th vet will start on May 2nd. Kurt also mentioned that the Socorro Clinic will be open sometime in mid June. The veterinarian will be alternating between the shelter and the clinic. Dr. Noe inquired about the cats that aren't used to being outdoors and can't be adopted. Dr. Christensen explained that those cats are 7 times more likely to find their way home when released where they were picked up. Kurt added that the cats that are not reclaimed or adopted are released back to the community through the Community Cat's Program.



b. Public Education, Outreach, and Responsible Ownership

Barbara Candelaria mentioned that the new flyer for May is ready and asked for help with the distribution. Animal Services will assist with the printing of the flyers. The theme for May is “Mother’s Day Madness” and the other flyer is “Register your Pets.” She also informed the committee about the neat things happening at Animal Services: the line for adoption has been longer than the line to owner surrender; Rescue partners are there; she also observed the large number of volunteers. She suggested for ASAC members to visit the shelter.

Barbara Canderlaria also suggested having Open Meeting Act training for committee members.

5. Unfinished Business and General Order

a. Animal Services Monthly Operations Report

Kurt Fenstermacher gave a presentation on the Animal Shelter Reform Task Force update. The presentation included the following:

- Community Cat and TNR Program was effective March 1, 2016 which entails not loaning out cat traps, ACO not picking up cats trapped in owned traps. In March 2016 there were 88 TNR and 131 Community cat surgeries performed. Sun City Cats is a resource for the community with cat nuisance issues.
- Animal Control Officers move to Department of Animal Services
- Adoption Promotions Held: Fast & Furriest Adoption event held at Andress High School-Social Media Ad signs, that included: **Adopt Don’t Shop; I Saved a Life Today** were used to take photos of adopted animal with their owners then posted on Facebook; Partnered with Sun Metro and placed the “Cool to Adopt” Ad signs inside the buses.
- The VIP Volunteer program had 803 volunteer hours in January and 1067 in February that consisted of 75 VIP volunteers, 12 Silva Magnet students, 8 adult probation and 10 Texas Tech students.
- Staffing-restructuring includes 27 additional personnel. The 3rd Vet starts on April 6th and the 4th Vet on May 2nd, the Surrender Prevention Manager will start on April 18th and the Adoption Supervisor started on April 11th. On March 28th the new licensing/registration clerk started and recruiting started for the Community Cats TNR Coordinator
- PetPoint training started on Feb 9th for Animal Services Staff. A total of 645 classroom hours. Will go live on May 16, 2016.



- Customer Service Training for Animal Services Staff: City Customer Care Team; HSUS Customer Service Training for several staff members
- Conferences for Animal Services Staff: Texas Unites, United Stated Humane Society Expo, Best Friends Animal Society
- Job shadowing Austin Animal Control, FT Worth and San Diego Animal Control
- SOP draft is 75% completed. Completion projected in June 2016
- Grants/Foundation support from Target Zero, Petco Foundation gave a \$90,000 for adoption, Best Friends, Austin Pets Alive, Alley Cat Allies and Meadows Foundation
- Capital Improvements –Sally Port Area Front Entrance Removal, Appliances- 2nd industrial washer installation in progress within next two weeks, industrial dishwasher, new Phone System VOIP, New dog play area, Internal CCTV cameras
- Low Cost Clinic held on April 17th. Since September 2015-March 2016 there has been 831 animals vaccinated, micro chipped and registered for \$24.00.

Ramon Herrera gave a demonstration on social media for activities held at Animal Services. Animal Services also recently partnered with El Paso Herold Post on-line publication which will be adding a segment for the pet of the week on Wednesdays. He also gave an overview of the different posts on the Animal Services Facebook page.

b. Animal Services Statistics Report

The live release statistics included: January (59%), February (56%), March (46%) and the Euthanasia Rate statistics included: January (32%), February (29%), March (28%)

c. Discussion and action on the 501(c) 3 update.

Dr. Michiel Noe explained that the 501(c) 3 forms are ready to submit however he doesn't have any board members. He is currently recruiting members who have experience in raising donations. He is also considering an interim board to get things running. The board will consist of 5 members. Barbara Candelaria explained that the board members don't necessarily need to have experience in collecting or giving donations, once the board is established as a 501(c) 3, they will be eligible for major grants from Petsmart, Best Friends, Mattie's Fund and others.



Motion: Cecilia Carpio motioned to proceed with the creation of the

501(c) 3 and seconded by Dr. Guy Johnsen

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

Nays: None

- d. Discussion and action on the approval process for rescue groups**
Kurt Fenstermacher explained that changes need to be made to Title 7 pertaining to the Animal Welfare Organization Permit and Rescue Partner Permits since there is no language of Animal Welfare Organizations. Also, there were discussions on what kind of information was to be posted on line by Regina Wagner and Steve Martinez (Animal services) concerning the reviewing of the Rescue Partners and Animal Welfare Organizations applications.

6. New Business

a. Discussion on Pet Point Demo

Astrid Bunner, ESD Systems Analyst, gave a Pet Point demonstration which will be the new data management system for Animal Services. The training started on February 9, 2016. There are 28 modules to be implemented. The team has been providing 5 classes a week for 920 hours so far in classroom time. The expected day for the program to go live is May 16, 2016. Astrid Bunner showed the committee how to run an Outcome report. She mentioned that PetPoint is equipped with 160 customized reports. She added that new reports can be customized. She also thanked Animal Services Department staff and Officers for devoting their time and effort for the PetPoint training.

- b. Discussion and action on changes to the Committee's By-Laws**
Robert Melson tabled this item for next meeting.



c. Discussion on update of the rewrite of Title 7

Kurt Fenstermacher explained that since last summer ESD held several public hearings to make changes to Title 7. The changes have been brought to City Council and the changes will come through sometime in May. Aside from the licensing component (Title 7) there is also the zoning component which is in Title 20 and also requires change. There are about 83 licenses that are pet related such as the groomers which according to Title 20 most of these facilities are not in the right zoning area. Title 20 will have some of the changes completed in early May or late June and possibly so will Title 7.

d. Discussion on Texas Department of State Health Services standards for euthanasia and El Paso Animal Services euthanasia practices

Marcia Margherio expressed the need to acknowledge one of the major issues affecting Animal Services: Euthanasia. She read section 821.052 and 821.057 from the Safety and Health Code. She questioned the euthanasia procedures and policies for Animal Services that seemed outdated. She suggested for ASAC to review the procedures and also suggested to have a third party expert to review the procedures and practices. She added that there are still too many healthy animals being killed and Animal Services creates a huge part of the euthanasia crisis. Marcia proposed for ASAC to review the shelter assessment report from Target Zero and San Diego and compose a list of recommendations to present to City Council for stricter guide lines. Dr. Johnsen suggested to give Animal Services the opportunity to present their program. Catherine Fagan suggested to see the new procedures to compare with the old. Item will be placed as an agenda item for further discussion and action for next month's meeting.

7. Adjournment

Motion made by Dr. Guy Johnsen and seconded by Betty Hoover to adjourn the April 13th meeting at 8:00pm.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

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

2016

IMPOUNDMENTS

	DOGS			CATS			OTHER			OWNER SURRENDER			In Process		
	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER
January	1,159	655	31	119	12	1	4								
February	1,133	565	151	193	12	4	8								
March	1,451	709	103	207	29	2	9								
April	1,345	863	95	212	17	4	60								
May															
June															
July															
August															
September															
October															
November															
December															

OUTCOMES

	ADOPTION			TRANSFER			TNR			EUTHANASIA			OWNER REQUEST			RETURN TO OWNER			DOA		
	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER
January	327	121	8	159	39	1	188	309	274	6	86	5	226	18	1	50	10	13			
February	360	65	7	80	33	7	207	322	214	7	125	5	190	17	0	48	24	61			
March	350	63	3	112	111	6	269	490	213	10	124	8	281	18	0	60	19	55			
April	411	88	11	112	145	16	214	416	369	18	115	7	232	13	2	59	27	47			
May																					
June																					
July																					
August																					
September																					
October																					
November																					
December																					

LIVE RELEASE RATE

	DOG	CAT	TOTAL
January	61%	56%	59%
February	56%	57%	56%
March	51%	65%	54%
April	56%	53%	54%