



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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SERVICE SOLUTIONS SUCCESS



Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes

April 9, 2014

1. The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee held a meeting at the Animal Services Shelter Conference Room which was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dr. Roger Freund, Chairperson.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Peggy Edman	X	
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	
Regina Wagner	X	

Environmental Services staff present: Kurt Fenstermacher, Luis Rios, Marilyn Christensen, Rose Janice, Larry Brunt, Maribel Karisch

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC February 12, 2014 minutes.

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

Motion made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Robert Melson to accept the February 12, 2014 minutes.

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
Eddie Holguin Jr.

District 7
Lily Limón

District 8
Cortney C. Niland

City Manager
Joyce A. Wilson

Ellen A. Smyth, Director

Environmental Services Department

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Ayes: Peggy Edman, Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Marcia Margherio, Regina Wagner.

Nays: None.

Dr. Freund introduced Dr. Marilyn Christensen to the ASAC committee members. Dr. Christensen has been with Animal Services for a couple of months. Dr. Freund informed the committee that Dr. Christensen will be the direct contact for any questions or concerns.

3. Discussion and action on approval of the ASAC Annual Report. Committee members were asked if there were any questions or revisions.

Motion made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Patricia Gonzalez to approve the ASAC Annual Report.

Ayes: Peggy Edman, Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Marcia Margherio, Regina Wagner.

Nays: None

4. Discussion and action on Sub-committees' reports:
 - a. Free Roaming Cats – Chairperson Regina Wagner provided a report on the status of various activities. Regina Wagner mentioned in her report that many cats' lives have been saved due to the open lines of communication with Animal Services. One of the goals for Sun City Cats is to educate the community in the basics of the TNR Program. A TNR presentation is scheduled later this month. A meeting with Animal Services and the Humane Society is scheduled to assure that the correct information is distributed to the public. In contribution to

helping with the TNR program, the spanish and english flyers are being handed out by Animal Services when cat traps are being loaned out. Ms. Wagner expressed a Thank You to Animal Services for giving the public options. Many of the calls that Sun City Cats has received, have been from Vet offices and referrals from Animal Services. The community has been receptive and grateful. Regina Wagner also mentioned that they are in desperate need of volunteers to help in several areas and any help is appreciated.

Motion: No action taken.

- b. Public Education, Outreach, and Responsible Pet Ownership- Chairperson Patricia Gonzalez informed the committee that she will have her report for next month's meeting.

Motion: No action taken.

Marcia Margherio asked the committee members whether they would consider writing a letter to the City Council in promoting the Spay & Neuter Outreach Program. Dr. Freund questioned if she was referring to the Voucher Program. Regina Wagner also questioned if it was about the City Grant and stated to ask Animal Services for more information. Kurt Fenstermacher clarified that it was a State Grant in the amount of \$15,200.00 to cover for 200 surgeries for this grant period. Dr. Freund stated that he has no problem supporting the program. Betty Hoover asked Larry Brunt if there were any specifics. Larry Brunt replied that the grant has specifics and it includes the number of Vets that sign up. Larry asked to include him with any questions they might have. Kurt

continued to mention that what he had expressed to Marcia was that the grant is city wide and it has minimal qualifications for up to 3 per family. Kurt added that it is a City of El Paso Program based on need. Betty Hoover asked whether it was income based. Kurt replied by stating that it is income based. He also added that what Marcia is asking for is additional support from Animal Services to make sure the awareness gets out. Dr. Freund advised Marcia Margherio to draft a letter for the committee to review.

Motion: No action taken

5. Old Business

- a. Discussion and action on the status of the Lower Valley Spay & Neuter Clinic. Larry Brunt provided an email from Javier Reyes Engineering Division Manager with a time-line for construction of the Spay & Neuter Clinic. The email included the date of bidding (May 2014), award of bid will be announced by late June 2014. Construction on the project, if everything goes as planned, will start early August 2014. Larry Brunt mentioned that everything looks good and we are at that point. Kurt explained that after construction begins, the City of El Paso has 120 days to accept the building per contract and with state inspections for the surgical room. Construction should be finished by November or end of 2014.

Motion: No action taken

- b. Discussion and action on Educational Media Campaign. Dr. Christensen provided a packet with several Humane

Educational topics and events. The packet included a calendar of different events from last year to serve as a sample for the committee. She asked the committee in which direction as a group were they going with a little bit of money. She also asked whether they wanted a pet responsibility aspect, Licensing, spay & neuter or the health aspect; what will the target message be? Dr. Christensen also mentioned that she had spoken with Lisa Sanchez about educational information on the radio. She continued to mention that Rose Janice was involved with several programs such as the summer camps, school programs in conjunction with the zoo, VIP Program and the Licensing brochures. Rose Janice will also participate at one of the off-site Health Fairs. Dr. Christensen also mentioned that both her and Rose have education background and could develop a curriculum. She added that the educational media campaign needs to be narrowed and find the funding. Robert Melson advised that the fundamentals have to be expressed as forcefully as possible in a powerful manner; have fun doing it but have teeth in it. Peggy Edman asked for clarification of the city and county difference in advertising. Kurt Fenstermacher advised that the advertising will only be for the city. He also mentioned that the confusion factor surfaces when the city and county rules and regulations apply differently. Kurt clarified that advertising dollars outside the city do not happen. Dr. Freund added that we can use some of the county's ideas. Kurt continued to explain on how the community could decide what the message should be; maybe by having a contest. Robert Melson mentioned that a fairly inexpensive thing could be to make pet decals. Patricia Gonzalez added how a friend was convinced of the importance of awareness after several of her friends dogs died. Regina Wagner also added on how Animal Control Officers could be community friendly. Maybe by offering a warning instead of a

ticket when an animal is picked up and use this opportunity to educate the public on the reason for picking up the animal. Dr. Freud stated that they have to decide what would be the best way to spend the time and money.

Motion: No action taken.

- c. Discussion and action on the use of an Open Item Tracking Log. A handout of the tracking logs was provided to the committee members. Linda Krasowski explained how the open and close tracking logs work. Linda mentioned that by keeping all the committee items on these logs, they would know what they talked about during the previous meeting and even six months down the line. Dr. Freund agreed to use the logs and will fill them with the minutes. Linda Krasowski added that these logs will be very handy in reviewing items from each month.

Motion: No action taken

6. Discussion on importance of Animal Data Collection. Marcia Margherio advised that data collection serves as a tool to improve in different aspects. She mentioned that by collecting data there will be room for improvement. Data collection tells us a lot, such as the number of intakes, which were neutered and spayed, how many were dogs or cats and how many were puppies etc. Animal data can also improve the live release rate, the budget, grants, disease control and especially public perception. She added that without accurate data we cannot find solutions. Dr. Freund added that it's important to have accurate data, but sometimes there are combinations of variables that can affect the accuracy of the outcome.

Motion: No action taken

7. Discussion and possible action on the recommendation of increasing staffing levels (for current and future shelter inventory) at Animal Services. Regina Wagner read a proposal to ASAC committee members for a recommendation to increase staffing at Animal Services. Betty Hoover advised that she is in favor for the recommendation, however with the city bureaucracy and the hiring freeze will not help the matter. Kurt Fenstermacher added that the hiring freeze was lifted. Linda Krasowski mentioned that she was not aware of the hiring freeze. Kurt clarified that the hiring freeze had been lifted and explained the vacancies and how they are filled. He also mentioned that there are always vacancies; 3 to 5 people missing due to promotions or getting fired. Dr. Freund asked Regina Wagner what is Animal Services' recommendation. Regina advised to ask Animal Services employees what they want. Kurt added that ASAC had recommended to extend the hours of operation and now it's in the process of reevaluation. He also added a quick explanation of the budget process and the purpose of ASAC. Linda Krasowski mentioned that she didn't know her purpose as an ASAC member. Kurt advised that he could go over budget 101 and also go over what ASAC's purpose is in relation to Animal Services. Dr. Freund advised to set up a sub-committee and have the city budget and the purpose of ASAC on the agenda for next month.

Motion: No action taken.

8. Discussion and action on shelters regarding their requirements under Chapter 823 of the Texas Health and Safety Code and required under the Title VII. To include the application process and what is required from all rescue partners and animal welfare organizations. Regina Wagner didn't provide a report, however she did mention that she had state inspections for Animal Services and from Humane Society.

Janice Nutt asked about the standards of care of rescue groups in the county. Kurt replied that rescue groups don't require inspections, but shelters do.

Motion: No action taken

9. Discussion on Animal Services Statistics. Kurt expressed happiness about the 14% decrease in euthanasia. Dr. Freund agreed that the euthanasia rate has decreased. In spite of the euthanasia decrease, Robert Melson is requesting for more data, especially the seasonal data on a quarterly bases. Luis Rios added that next month he will expand the number of months on the statistics. Linda Krasowski questioned why the number of transfers was so low compared to other cities. Betty Hoover mentioned that she didn't know, however she started noticing a difference when the changes of Title VII took effect. She also mentioned that she takes 50% of animals from the shelter and 50% from the waiting list. Janice Nutt complimented on the zip code map. Larry Brunt explained that each dot on the map represented a single or multi impoundment which IT generated by GIS.

Motion: No action taken.

10. Call to Public (30 minutes)
 - a. Member of the public questioned about staffing at Animal Services. Dr. Christensen the handout on staffing.
 - b. Member of the public questioned about rescue groups and Title VII in relations to Chapter 823 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
 - c. Member of the public questioned Dr. Christensen on what would be the primary things she would change at Animal Services.

- d. Member of the public expressed that some members of the public don't know about Animal Services. She asked for donations of dog beds from Human Society.

11. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch Animal Services

Approved A.S.A.C Chairperson

