



**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
Minutes
May 13, 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 April 15, 2014 minutes.

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

Motion made by Ann Morgan-Lilly and seconded by Linda Krasowski to accept the April 15, 2014 minutes with corrections.

Ayes: Robert Melson, Linda Krasowski, Barabara Candelaria, Marcia Margherio, Peggy Edman, Betty Hoover, Regina Wagner, Patricia Gonzalez, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Dr. Guy Johnsen

Nays: None

3. **Call to Public**

None

4. **Discussion and Action on Subcommittees' reports**

a. Free Roaming Cats

Regina Wagner gave a report on how TNR is becoming a reality in El Paso. It has helped reduce complaint calls, cat impoundments and euthanizing. After many efforts, TNR will become an option in the El Paso community and hopefully will be added to the revision of Title 7. Sun City Cats has been working with an attorney to help draft a TNR ordinance that will be fair and feasible in the El Paso community. Sun City Cats thanked Animal Services for offering options to TNR. Over the last month fifty friendly cats were removed from the streets and from being euthanized at Animal Services. This is part of TNR to remove friendly adoptable cats and kittens. Sun City Cats is also trying to educate the public through Facebook on letting the mother cats take care of their kittens. They are still in need of volunteers. Sun City Cats also started communication with Fort Bliss on TNR. Regina Wagner also mentioned that October 16th is National Feral Day.

Motion: Regina Wagner motioned Betty Hoover seconded to have ASAC endorse the recommendation to participate in this year's National Feral Day to celebrate not only that day but throughout the rest of the month of October.

Ayes: Peggy Edman, Barbara Candelaria, Betty Hoover, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Robert Melson, Linda Krasowski, Patricia Gonzalez, Marcia Margherio, Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly, Regina Wagner

Nays: None

b. Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Ownership

I. Combining information with Animal Services when Environmental Services gives their presentation to local schools including classes.

added that she is willing to help with the curriculum. Barbara also added that if it would be possible to take animals that have been adopted for testimonial purposes and also have certified animal handlers to help out. Ellen Smyth added that there isn't much of a demand and time for these types of presentations at schools. She mentioned that she will have the Training manager contact her. Ellen Smyth added that she wasn't promising anything on taking animals. Ann Morgan-Lilly mentioned the educational program that first grade teachers are offering at Western Hill Elementary. It offers 3 different presentations including euthanasia. The program is scheduled to be presented to City Council on Tuesday, June 2, 2015. She also mentioned that all the first graders went to Animal Services shelter and after the trip, 6 dogs were adopted. It's a very good program she added.

II. Discuss flyer for animal welfare during July 4th holiday

Barbara Candelaria presented a flyer titled "July 4th Pet Safety" in which she requested to have ASAC endorse to be distributed for the safety of animals during the 4th of July holiday. She also requested to have the city make public safety announcements. The flyers will be distributed starting in June. Betty added that she has several flyers for distributions if anyone wants them.

Motion: No Action Taken

5. Discussion and Action on Old Business

a. Lower Valley Spay/Neuter Clinic

Ellen Smyth mentioned that an offer had been made to a vet, who was supposed to have started the first week of June; however since then, she called and declined the position. Ellen Smyth explained that Animal Services is in need of a full-time veterinarian. She also mentioned that there is a veterinarian from North Carolina who is interested and might be willing to move to El Paso. At this time, the Spay/Neuter clinic is still without a vet. Ellen suggested having local vets donate four free hours a month to help in the humanitarian efforts of spaying and neutering. She also mentioned they are working to petition the board for four veterinarians that are not licensed in Texas and

working 40 hours a week as technicians. The city is offering the veterinarian position \$85,000 a year.

Motion: No Action Taken

b. Animal Services Monthly Operations Report

Linda Krasowski gave an explanation on her visit to the Animal Shelter on March 27, 2015. She also mentioned that if there is a problem in the future, Dr. Christensen should give her a call.

Motion: No Action Taken

c. Animal Services Statistics

Ellen Smyth explained that the numbers on the report are not showing the disposition of certain animals, such as those that are in foster care. Linda Krasowski suggested breaking down the numbers by categories in order to get a more accurate count.

Motion: No Action Taken

d. Further Discussion and action on the Reduced Euthanasia report: proposed next step; presentation to City Council.

Robert Melson recommended having ASAC accept the report that he drafted. He also asked the committee to present any problems, facts, options and decision concerning the report that will be presented to City Council. Marcia Margherio expressed to continue moving the momentum forward. Barbara Candelaria requested to have the report condensed into ten power point slides. Regina Wagner suggested adding visuals and expressed her concern about using the term no kill when it was previously discussed. It needs to be defined, she added. Ann Morgan-Lily mentioned that she had passed on the working plan to the City Manager. Dr. Johnsen expressed that City Council will ask which option ASAC supports. Linda Krasowski mentioned that the committee should go forward with the report. Betty Hoover advised to move forward as an advisory committee on the report. Ellen Smyth

Motion: Betty Hoover motioned and Peggy Edman seconded to move forward with this draft and let Ellen revise it so that it meets the needs in City Council in the language they can understand and we as committee Members sign-off on the report and present to City Council.

Ayes: Robert Melson, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Betty Hoover, Patricia Gonzalez, Barbara Candelaria, Regina Wagner, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Peggy Edman, Marcia Margherio, Linda Krasowski

Nays: None

6. Discussion and action on New Business

a. Discussion and action on the development of a New Member Manual (Notebook)

Dr. Guy Johnsen passed out an outline of a New Member Manual. He explained that this manual would give important information to new members. The manual could include the following: History of ASAC, Legislative Statutes and Local Ordinances, Governance and Committee Membership, General Meeting Procedures, Calendar, Directory of Shelters, Rescue Groups, Adoption Facilities. He also mentioned that a committee logo and the research could be developed with the help of an ESD designee.

Motion: Betty Hoover motioned and Regina Wagner seconded to move forward on the development of the New Member Manual

Ayes: Betty Hoover, Barbara Candelaria, Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly, Regina Wagner, Linda Krasowski, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Patricia Gonzalez, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Peggy Edman

Nays: None

b. Discussion and action on the process of responses by AS to calls to investigate neglected and abused animals

Linda Krasowski suggested having two months of data of responses to investigate neglected and abused animal calls. The data could be reviewed for adequate response

times to these types of calls and figure out a solution, if there is a problem, she added. Ellen Smyth explained that these types of calls aren't tracked. The calls are determined by **priority 1**; *bite*, **priority 2**; *cat in trap*, **priority 3**; *stray animal*. All of Animal Services' calls come from 311 and 911. Animal Services Officers are first responders to these calls, however most cruelty cases are investigated and closed out by the Police Department.

Motion: No Action Taken

c. Discussion and action on having an ASAC Strategic Planning Meeting

Dr. Guy Johnsen distributed an outline for a strategic planning meeting. The outline consists of a Purpose, Process, Participants and Program. Dr. Johnsen expressed that with the leadership of a strategic planner ASAC could develop a directive into a particular plan. Ellen Smyth added that she will provide the location, lunch and the strategic planner. Dr. Johnsen also mentioned that having a Strategic Plan builds credibility in a group. Ellen suggested having the meeting for half day on Friday, July 31st and all day Saturday, August 1st.

Motion: Betty Hoover motioned and Peggy Edman seconded to have Ellen Smyth provide options for the next meeting, for the possibilities of the Strategic session for ASAC.

Ayes: Dr. Guy Johnsen, Betty Hoover, Barbara Candelaria, Regina Wagner, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Peggy Edman, Robert Melson, Marcia Margherio, Patricia Gonzalez, Linda Krasowski

Nays: None

d. Title 7 discussion

Dr. Guy Johnsen inquired about the changes to Title 7. He mentioned that he wouldn't want to have microchipping taken away, since it's been working well in our region. Ellen Smyth expressed that microchipping won't be taken out of Title 7. The team who is working on revising Title 7 is composed of: Elda Rodriguez-Hefner, Dr. Marilyn

Christensen, Hugo Navarro and Gina Ramirez. Ellen Smyth also mentioned that the same presentation will be given in three different parts of the city. The first one took place at ESD main office on San Paulo. The other meeting will be on May 14, 2015 at the Animal Services Conference Room at 5:30 PM. The last meeting will take place at City Hall Chambers on June 4, 2015. All three meeting will have the same presentation giving the community from different sides of the city the chance to attend and voice their concerns. Betty Hoover added that these meetings are intended to receive the first community's opinion and ideas. Ellen Smyth explained that after the first draft of Title 7 is written there will be opportunities for revisions. Dr. Johnsen expressed that there is a lot of power in microchipping. If used properly through public awareness with a more positive and proactive approach, microchipping will work much better for the city in the future. He also mentioned that the city needs to improve the ability to reduce escalated nuisance issues and to protect the public from rabies.

Motion: No Action taken

7. Adjourn

Patricia Gonzalez motioned and Barbara Candelaria seconded to adjourn.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

