



Dedicated to Outstanding Customer Service for a Better Community

SERVICE SOLUTIONS SUCCESS



Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
Minutes
July 9, 2014

- 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 6:05 p.m. by Betty Hoover, Vice-Chairperson.

Table with 3 columns: Board Member A.S.A.C., Present, Absent. Lists members like Peggy Edman, Dr. Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly, and Regina Wagner.

Environmental Services staff present: Kurt Fenstermacher, Marilyn Christensen, Elda Rodriguez-Hefner, Larry Brunt, Maribel Karisch

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

- 2. Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC June 11, 2014 minutes.

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

Motion made by Robert Melson and seconded by Betty Hoover to accept the May 14, 2014 minutes.

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

Ellen A. Smyth, Director
Environmental Services Department
7968 San Paulo Dr. | El Paso, TX 79907 | (915)621-6700 | Fax (915) 621-6711
www.elpasotexas.gov
EL PASO. IT'S ALL GOOD.

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

Interim City Manager
Sean P. McGlynn

Nays: None.

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

- a. Free Roaming Cats – Chairperson Regina Wagner expressed in her report that Sun City Cats met with Animal Services on July 19th. About 35 colony managers were present and those that weren't able to attend sent letters to show their support. There were other colony managers that chose to stay in the back ground. Colony managers were hopeful after the meeting. Later in the month there will be a meeting with the Animal Control Officers to address the colony managers' questions and concerns. The community is supportive and receptive of the TNR program. Sun City Cats' Facebook page continues to grow. A gentleman has stepped up to help print flyers. They are still working with the website designer to set up a website to reunite owners with their cats and to assist in finding potential adopters. Dr. Ramos from the Dog, Cat and Bird Hospital, has joined up to help with surgeries. Sun City Cats was informed about a couple of cats that were poisoned didn't know whether they were intentional or not.

Motion: No action taken.

- b. Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Pet Ownership Chairperson, Patricia Gonzalez did not have report. Patricia mentioned to the committee about a newspaper article that she read concerning a woman that was selling her pet Chihuahua for \$200.00 or trade for a walker or wheelchair due to her not being able to take care of the puppy. Patricia Gonzalez stressed how this should be a concern to the public. Betty Hoover from the Humane Society who is partners with El Paso Saddle Blanket passed out posters to educate the public on the importance of not leaving pets alone in cars during the hot summer season. Their goal is to distribute and post as many posters throughout city buildings, retail stores, malls and vet clinics. These posters are also available at El Paso Saddle blanket. Linda Krasowski also mentioned that she had seen a poster at a Boston mall that caught her

attention. The poster was about adopting pets from the local shelter. Dr. Freund advised Linda Krasowski to give Kurt a copy of the picture. The idea could be an item for the educational campaign.

Motion: No action taken.

4. Old Business

- a. Discussion and action on the status of the Lower Valley Spay & Neuter Clinic. Larry Brunt mentioned that they are still ironing out Petsmart grant stats. As far as the clinic, there are final numbers that Engineering will be taking to the final budget hearings. Kurt added that the bid is now 23% higher than originally budgeted. Engineering will sit with the contractor and it's the Architect's responsibility to come up with the best value deal. We are still in the negotiating phase. The timeline is still the end of 2014 or January 2015.

Motion: No action taken.

- b. Discussion and action on the Educational Media Campaign. Kurt Fenstermacher mentioned that because of budget freeze, the position of the Educational Specialist Coordinator has not been filled. He added that there was some free advertising with the dog story which Dr. Christensen told the committee. She mentioned that this dog was brought to the shelter by the owner. The owner had requested to have the dog euthanized because she suspected that the dog had health issues. After shaving a small area of the dog, the owner was contacted and asked if AS could work with the dog. It was shaved and found a young and healthy dog under all the matted fur. The dog story was placed on the internet and on the radio station (KLAQ.) The story then went to the

their national group where it got 160,000 hits. The dog was seen by 1,400 viewers and our Facebook page had 50,000. It was the first time that Ramon had seen such a positive response. The dog got adopted. While the radio station was at the shelter they took several photos of other dogs, encouraging the public that there were plenty of other dogs for adoption.

Motion: No action taken.

- c. Hand out of budget for discussion at July meeting. Kurt Fenstermacher passed out a hand out of the proposed budget to City Council for the Animal Shelter. The overall amount being asked is 1.3 million. Kurt mentioned that the amount spans from the Animal Shelter going from a general funded department to an enterprise funded department. Now that the Animal shelter is a division of the Environmental Department, utilities that were paid by general taxes are now going to be paid by the Department. Indirect cost such as phones, long distance have gone up. Costs for promotional and advertising and printing have increased to about 62,000. Other cost such as the Socorro clinic, vet services, equipment and supplies have also increased. Kurt also mentioned that the budget hearing is scheduled for July 25th. City Manager is trying to place everything in one week. Dr, Freund asked whether the registrations monies go to the general fund or the Animal Shelter. Kurt responded that it goes to code enforcement. Kurt added that the overall amount will be known by the end of July and it won't change greatly.

Motion: No action taken.

- d. Rescue Group/Shelters to discuss their organization. Dawn from Great Dane Rescue. This group was unable to attend. Brandy "From the Heart" presented. Brandy mentioned that their organization is all volunteered based. Their main focus is fostering. Their animals are either sick, injured, were involved in a cruelty case or neglect. They consists of four Life Enhancing Rescue Programs; Rescue and Rehab, Special Needs, Senior to Senior and Community Projects. Vest A Dog was their most recent project. She mentioned in 2007 they had 645 adoptions, in 2008 there were 837 adoptions and that in 2009 , they had a total of 2013 adoptions.

Motion: No action taken

5. Continuation of discussion and proposal of a motion directing the Chairman and the ESD/AC leadership to request a declaration from City Council establishing "No-Kill" as a city policy. Bob Melson mentioned that a proposal for No-Kill is achievable however to make the declaration of No-Kill, City Council has the final word. Dr. Freund added that he rather work with Animal Services and Dr. Christensen for the next two to three years as a group and then go to City Council and present their proposal. Dr. Christensen added that no-kill is all in the definition. If we take 40% of healthy, friendly and adoptable dog before its due out date and have them adopted out, then we can say we are no-kill. Dr. Freund added that in order to make a proposal, we must show the steps we are taking, present the goals we want to reach, are within budget and supported by City Council. Bob Melson added that there should be a concrete approach. Marcia Margherio mentioned that an approach to no-kill would be by reducing the number of intakes and increasing adoptions. ASAC and Animal Services should figure a percentage of intakes and adoptions with specific goals and objectives. Dr. Freund added that there should be some sort of accountability to fall on in order to declare. We need to push the El Paso community to decide. Dr. Freund proposed that ASAC and Animal Services continue to work on the programs that are going on right now and see them through the end of 2014.

Motion: No action taken

6. Discussion on how AS is handling the hot weather advisories and the neglect cases seen due to the very hot temperatures. Include statistics of citations issued, number of animals taken from homes or other locations due to weather related neglect, and how AS Officers are policing the city for neglect cases. Linda Krasowski asked Elda Rodriguez-Hefner if the Animal Control Officers are actively looking out for cases of neglect. Elda mentioned that the officers investigate every call. In some cases some of the calls that come in as a cruelty calls are not necessarily a cruelty case. When investigating cases, the officers are not allowed to enter the property without a court order. It takes the Officers about 2 to 3 hour to get a court order. This time of the year our priority 1 calls are dogs inside vehicles. The Fire Department will break windows in case there is no owner found. The number to reach Animal Control Officers is 311.

Motion: No action taken

7. Discussion on report of infectious diseases at the shelter. Dr. Christensen passed a hand out of animals that are seen and identified as having an infectious disease by Dr. Page. Dr. Christensen advised the committee that a report to identify different types of infectious diseases is in the works. She also passed out a list of reasons why owner relinquish their pets. The primary reason was medical condition. The second was moving. Regina Wagner completely disagreed when Dr. Christensen indicated she did not feel the survey was important. Ms. Wagner stated that the survey is important. Until we know why the animals are being surrendered then we cannot concentrate and prioritize our efforts on the areas of concern to solve the problem. Ms. Wagner suggested that someone should be in the front of the building either outside or at the door to offer other alternatives or options rather than bringing the animals into the shelter. Some individuals from the community continue to confuse the Humane Society with Animal Services. Linda Krasowski added that the hand sanitizer used at the shelter needs to be alcohol based as recommended by standard guidelines for animal shelters. Dr. Freund ad-

vised to have this discussion on next meeting's agenda.

Motion: No action taken

8. Discussion on Animal Services Statistics. Dr. Christensen advised the committee there are some format issues and IT has been working on it. Regina Wagner asked about what part of town most strays are coming in from. Dr. Freund pointed out that it's from the 36 zip code. Bob Melson mentioned that the numbers look pretty good. The overall numbers in euthanasia is dropping and they are predictable.

Motion: No action taken

9. Call to Public (30 min)
 - a. Member of the public informed the committee to stop by El Paso Saddle Blanket to pick up posters. She also mentioned that nothing has been done about several dogs that have been poisoned. She also recommended getting a cat instead of using pesticides. The Humane Society is seeing many soldiers having problem with keeping their dogs after going through divorce. This creates a problem when the soldiers are having to go back to the barracks and can't take their dogs.
 - b. Member of the public encourages the committee and Animal Services to execute a strategic plan and to oversee for 5 years.

10. Not having more items of discussion meeting was adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved A.S.A.C Chairperson

