



Mayor
Oscar Leeser

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes
August 10, 2016

City Council

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

1. A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the City Council Chambers and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Bob Melson-Chairperson.

District 2
Jim Tolbert

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	
Janet Nutt		x

District 3
Emma Acosta

District 4
Carl L. Robinson

District 5
Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6
Claudia Ordaz

District 7
Lily Limón

Animal Services staff present: Karen Burden, Adan Parra, Maribel Karisch

District 8
Cortney C. Niland

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

City Manager
Tommy Gonzalez

2. Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC July 13, 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 July 13, 2016 minutes.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Catherine Fagan and Regina Wagner



Motion: Motion was made by Rep. Dr. Noe and seconded by Regina Wagner to move item 6 to the front of the agenda.

Ayes: Rep. Dr. Noe, Cecilia Carpio, Barbara Candelaria, Betty Hoover, Regina Wagner, Robert Melson, Peggy Edman, Catherine Fagan, Dr. Guy Johnsen

Nays: None

3. Reports of Special (Select and Ad Hoc) committees

a. Free Roaming Cats

Sun City Cats tries to empower individuals to become hands-on part of the process. Regina Wagner mentioned in her report that under community outreach there are 2 keys point to a successful community cat program: 1. make the community aware of the existing program and 2. explain how the program works and its goals. Sun City Cats is using any media exposure, community and volunteer support to achieve a positive public reaction to TNR. They have also been invited to several non-animal events in the next couple of months and to become part of a new local business network called the Local Project (digital directory). Animal Services and Sun City Cats were on KVIA EXTRA to talk about the changes at the shelter and how TNR works. Sun City Cats continues to distribute the TNR door hangers. TNR workshops will be scheduled in the near future. Animal Services added a webpage to inform the public about TNR and participation is increasing monthly. Sun City Cats continues to empower the community to become part of the solution. National Feral Cat Day is on October 16.

b. Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Ownership

Barbara Candelaria is working on the Halloween Flyers and will distribute throughout the community. She will be stamping spay and neuter on the flyers. Marcia Margerio suggested promoting vaccinations for next month. Barbara also suggested promoting the need for fosters at Animal Services and Humane Society. Marcia Margherio will be part of the Public Education committee.

4. Unfinished Business and General Order

a. Animal Services Monthly Operations Report

Adan Parra presented the monthly report for July:

- Live release was 55%,
- There were 724 adoptions the Rock the Shelter event contributed 120 adoptions alone.



- 58 surgeries were performed at the Socorro clinic,
- 7000 Licenses were sold,
- \$500 Grant from Maddie's fund,
- 17,793 Zoonosis grant increased by about \$1000,
- 723.47 in volunteer hours,
- 20 new volunteers,
- 20 Clint High School students vet assistants,
- Customer interactions: 3,283 in person and 2,237 by phone.

b. Animal Services Statistics Report

Adan Parra introduced the new Petpoint Dashboard *Shelter Animals Count*. The report will include year-to-date cats, dogs, intakes, outcomes, length of stay, dead on arrival, died in care, days of animal care, lost in care, fees and revenue and will be compared to Texas and the rest of the nation shelters. The one-sheet reporting will make it a lot easier to obtain statistical shelter numbers.

5. Call to Public

- a.** Public member Linda Krasowski had several comments about an Open Record Request made for adoptions/returned adoptions including medical treatment between January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016. The report indicated there were 55 sick animals returned, however it didn't include any reasons for outcome. Several animals were given cephalexin, but the report didn't say why. She had several questions on regarding the shelter cleaning procedures and expressed that the shelter should be cleaned as though all animals impounded are sick. She also mentioned that the statistics haven't been posted on the website since April and should be included with the agenda. She stated that there should be more advertising of the Spay and Neuter Clinic, and there should be more vaccination clinics during this time of the year.
- b.** Public member Patricia Johnson mentioned that there were several discrepancies on the website in spite of the 2500 hours of Petpoint training: there are no impound numbers, no photos, some of the cats' genders are unknown and some animals are classified as special needs with no explanation. She also mentioned there were two different cats that were impounded with the same number. She expressed that more than 200 cats have been euthanized since the Community Cats Program started.
- c.** Public member Ken Margherio expressed concern on the rising euthanasia rate that went from 32.5% to 40% within six months although the impound



rate was the same and the adoptions numbers were great. He suggested for the committee to look into what has caused this increase.

6. Regular Agenda

a. Discussion and action on the El Paso Community Cat Population

Dr. Johnsen expressed that the committee decided to allow the agendas to concentrate on the 3 strategic goals. He explained that the committee will focus on the Community Cats Program first and start by creating an outline on what the program should entail. He also suggested inviting other stakeholders for their opinions. Regina Wagner gave an overview of the different groups that are utilizing TNR, including Animal Services and Sun City Cats.

Karen Burden, Community Cats Coordinator, mentioned that Animal Services participated in the TNR program which is primarily focused on feral cats. The Community Cats Program focuses on all un-owned cats. Owner surrender cats aren't good candidates for the program. As part of her duties, she determines which cats will be part of the program. The cats will then be scheduled for surgery, vaccinated, have their ear clipped and finally released back out to the street. Since the city doesn't have jurisdiction in Fort Bliss and County, they are not participating in the program; however, discussions have started including them. She partners with Sun City Cats and other colonies that want to remain anonymous. Her goal is to save as many lives as possible and to educate the public. She is planning an event for National Feral Cat day in October.

Dr. Johnsen suggested that the committee needs a standardized Community Cats program to include Fort Bliss and County of El Paso. Since no U.S. military base will allow a TNR program, Dr. Noe expressed that the committee will have a better chance to implement the program with County.

Regina Wagner explained that the TNR program was established between Animal Services and Sun City Cats about 3 ½ years ago. Citizen cat complaints have declined because they are getting answers and solutions to their needs from Sun City Cats and Animal Services.

Regina Wagner mentioned the TNR components: Educate the educators, follow the established TNR program, more surgical outlets and higher volume surgeries. Catherine Fagan suggested to have a reassessment of the TNR number in order for ASAC to determine recommendations that will make a long term impact. Marcia Margherio estimated about 200,000 TNR cats in the city.

Betty Hoover explained that the lack of TNR funding and participation from the private sector has been one of the biggest problems too. She also mentioned that within a year the community will be able to see TNR components through a Humane Society bequest. Betty mentioned that the plan is to have 50 owned pets a week spayed/neutered for those that can't afford to go to a private veterinarian and have 10 veterinarians participate. The program



is scheduled to be launched in January 2017. Karen Burden from Animal Services averages 40 to 50 TNR cats a week from colony managers and the shelter.

Dr. Johnsen suggested having a meeting with stakeholders to get their opinions on creating an outlined plan for the Community Cat Program.

Dr. Noe suggested creating a Community Cats Ad Hoc committee which includes Regina Wagner, Dr. Johnsen, Barbara Candelaria, Dr. Noe, and Catherine Fagan. They will meet at the Animal Services Conference Room, date and time pending.

b. Discussion and action on the development of the public pet awareness educational piece in the year 2017 (First topic to be researched & developed: Lost and Found Pets)

Dr. Johnsen expressed that most people don't know what to do when they lose or find a pet. He suggested having ASAC come up with a pet awareness topic quarterly and push out to the community through Animal Services advertising. Betty Hoover mentioned that she has an educational flyer to built from. Dr. Johnsen suggested bringing other educational materials for the next meeting. Robert Melson suggested placing inserts in the water bills. Dr. Noe will look into it

Discussion was made on the importance of registering microchips with microchip companies to help in the recovery of lost and found pets.

Ramon Herrera introduced Michele Anderson as the new Public Affairs Specialist with Animal Services. Once the committee determines what their focus will be on the lost and found pets, Ramon will produce a PSA video.

7. Adjournment

Motion was made by Dr. Guy Johnsen and seconded by Catherine Fagan to adjourn the meeting on August 14, 2016 at 8:03.

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.