



Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

August 14, 2013

Minutes

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 6:07 p.m. by Dr. Roger Freund, Chairperson.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Dr. Roger Freund	X	
Patricia Gonzalez	X	
Betty Hoover	X	
Linda Krasowski	X	
Marcia Margherio	X	
Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly	X	
Robert Melson	X	
Janice Nutt	X	
Eddie Sandoval		X
Regina Wagner	X	

Environmental Services staff present: David Almonte, Ellen A. Smyth, Luis Rios, Elda Rodriguez-Hefner, Larry Brunt, Lawrence Koym, and Sandra Pellegrini.

Public Present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Discussion and action on the approval ASAC July 10, 2013 minutes.

Committee members were asked if there were any questions or revisions, no corrections were requested.

Motion made by Robert Melson and seconded by Regina Wagner to accept the July 10, 2013 minutes as is.

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

Environmental Services Department

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

Nays: None.

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

- a. Free Roaming Cats chairperson Regina Wagner provided update to attendees and advised that community outreach and education efforts continue. Ms. Wagner requested ASAC's endorsement throughout October for their recommendation to participate on the National Feral Cat day.

Motion made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Patricia Gonzalez for ASAC to endorse Sun City Cats.

Ayes: Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Regina Wagner.

Nays: None.

- b. Public Education, Outreach, and Responsible Pet Ownership Chairperson Patricia Gonzalez inquired if the presentations at schools previously discussed had taken place. Larry Brunt advised that such presentations had taken place and approximately 8000 children and school staff attended, and advised of plans to continue outreach efforts.

Motion: no action taken.

4. Discussion on ASAC Mission "Providing a healthier environment through diligent care of animals with the goal of saving maximum animal lives." Marcia Margherio requested corrections to be made to Title VII and questioned the current status of animal welfare, which is currently attracting criticism and negative media

attention. Ms. Margherio advised of changes that need to take place in order to improve current conditions and advised that ASAC members need to reflect their success on their appointments. Ms. Margherio advised that the shelter stats reflect that we are failing due to the kill rate reflected on them. Ms. Margherio proposed for ASAC to become an advisory and action committee in which members of the committee would provide items to be discussed and then plan the course of action. Dr. Freund agreed with her suggestion and advised that Animal Services should not be blamed for pet overpopulation and that public education is vital as a preventive measure. Ms. Margherio suggested looking at the big picture to be able to address the real problem.

Motion: no action taken.

5. Discussion on State Legislative changes and impact on transferring animals. Defining the categories of mandatory inspections and status on annual inspection reports completed. Guest speaker Dr. Ken Waldrup provided a presentation for committee members and public present. Dr. Waldrup provided information on statues and regulations included on the Texas Administrative Code regarding euthanasia regulations, Animal Control Officer training for shelter personnel, rabies quarantine and non-quarantine facilities inspection requirements, and requirements to transport animals across state lines.

No action taken.

6. Discussion on Animal Shelter annual inspection reports completed and forwarded to Animal Services. Regina Wagner advised of shelter inspection status reports requested and responsive documents received. Ms. Wagner recommended keeping track of the status of shelter facilities inspections and questioned whether ASAC should keep track of the inspection results and to add this item to the agenda every year for discussion.

Motion made by Patricia Gonzalez and seconded by Regina Wagner for ASAC to follow-up on compliance by area shelters to submit inspection reports to Animal Services.

Ayes: Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Regina Wagner.

Nays: None.

7. Discussion and action on rescue organizations pulling animals from the Animal Services Shelter. Regina Wagner advised that a shelter located in Chaparral, New Mexico has been pulling animals from El Paso Animal Shelter, and advised that according to public records, their permit to become a rescue partner was denied. Ms. Wagner advised of issues she found on public records provided to her concerning this shelter's application, such as a letter of recommendation signed by same person who applied for the permit. Two memorandums included on the records, one of them advising that the facility in question met the required standards to become a rescue partner, and a second one to all welfare groups regarding requirements to pull animals and obtain permits. Ms. Wagner advised that granting administrative approval implied that several guidelines and requirements were overlooked. Ellen Smyth requested this item to be added to next month's agenda to give her enough time to research all the facts.

Motion made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Ann Morgan-Lilly to delay any action on this item and to follow-up on the next ASAC meeting.

Ayes: Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Regina Wagner.

Nays: None.

8. Discussion and action on proposed education for City Ordinance offenders. Betty Hoover advised that no action should be taken at the time and it was decided that discussion should be postponed and discussed at the next ASAC meeting. Linda Krasowski advised that she had questions regarding the need of this program and

evaluating all the pros and cons would be useful in making a decision on whether it should be implemented or not.

Motion made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Ann Morgan-Lilly to postpone this item to next meeting.

Ayes: Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Regina Wagner.

Nays: None.

9. Discussion on update on Animal Services satellite project and staff hiring. Dr. Roger Freund requested this item to be postponed until next month in order to gather additional data and information. Larry Brunt provided a brief overview of the current status and purpose of the clinic, NSNRT certification, as well as selection, training and certification of staff.

Postpone one month.

10. Discussion on report on the process for intake of animals, including sick and injured at the Animal Services Shelter. Dr. Roger Freund requested this item to be postponed until next month in order to gather additional data and information.

Postpone one month.

11. Discussion on current process for cage and kennel disinfection with products in use and dwell times. Linda Krasowski advised that she was seeking to obtain detailed information on the policies and procedures involved on these processes to ensure that appropriate protocol and best practices are being followed. Dr. Roger Freund requested this item to be postponed until next month in order to gather additional data and information.

Postpone one month.

12. Call to Public (5 min)

Ellen Smyth reminded the public of the rules for items to be discussed, and time allowed to each speaker. Charlie Moreno spoke about the mission of ASAC and discussed changes that are needed, which in his opinion range from animal services staff all the way up to City officials. Mr. Moreno discussed comments made in the past meeting by Dr. Roger Freund regarding the proposed Pet Responsibility Program. Dr. Freund's response was that it would be best to educate the public in order to prevent violations, instead of penalizing them after a violation had occurred. Questions for Waldrup regarding the transportation of animals between state lines and vaccinating animals in the field. Dr. Waldrup spoke of responsibility of Texas authorities to enforce the law on animals entering the state. Dr. Waldrup responded that vaccination and treatment of animals is not allowed unless a veterinarian has seen the animal. Mr. Moreno questioned the responsibility of Animal Services to contact the owners of microchipped animals; Dr. Freund responded that often the owner's information is not updated and many times is not possible to cross-reference rabies records and microchip information. Ellen Smyth advised that revisions are being made to Title VII.

Barbara Valencia read no-kill statue to the present, and advised of several complaints including the number of animals euthanized by Animal Services during the month of June. Ellen Smyth advised that the amount of \$30,000.00 was added to the budget in July/August for education and other programs.

Motion: no action taken

13. Not having any more items of discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Prepared by: Sandra Pellegrini, Animal Services

Approved by:

A.S.A.C. Chairperson