



Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.
COSM Neighborhood Enhancement Conference Room/ZOOM
630 E Hopkins, San Marcos, Texas 78666

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** *Chairman Jeff Jorgensen called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.*
- II. **ROLL CALL** *Present in person: Chairman Dr. Jeff Jorgensen, member Diane Welker, Officer Jonathan Coco, and Liaison Debbi Jackson. Attending via ZOOM: member Stephanie Nelson, Officer John Trinidad, Officer Steven Heath, and Officer Briana Brecher.*
- III. **30 MINUTE CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD: 3 Minutes (per citizen)**
 - Paula Buenostros: Representing Bailing Out Benji; concerned about the pet store.*
 - Shannon Graham: Representing Bailing Out Benji rescue; concerned about the pet store.*
 - Samantha Deforest: Supports ethical breeders but concerned about the pet store.*
 - Kelly Arthur: Discussed Face Book pages.*
 - Jennifer Hays: Inquired about when the new shelter manager will be named.*
 - Jen Harris: Thankful for the shelter staff and the progress made with heartworm positive dogs and advocates for an "urgent/code red" list of animals needing rescue.*
 - Cristen Andrews: Information should be more easily available than through Open Records Request and she would like to see written SOPs for feral cats and TNR procedures.*
 - Nora O'Halloran: She is new to the area and thinks there should be more TNR efforts throughout the county. She mentioned an Austin-based program for barn cats, called Cactus Cats.*
 - Sharri Boyett: Volunteered at the shelter this morning and was pleased with all that she saw. She thinks it is a result of more pro-active management, which she hopes will continue.*
 - Anne Zabolio: Not able to connect/speak at that time.*
- IV. **MINUTES: Consider approval, by motion, of the October 13, 2021 meeting minutes**
 - Steven Heath made a motion to approve the minutes; Diane Welker seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.*
- V. **PRESENTATIONS**
 - a) None
- VI. **ITEMS FOR ACTION/DISCUSSION**
 - a) Receive an update on the Council's action on the recommendations to: Code of Ordinances, Sec.2.367 Powers and Duties
 - Following two readings at City Council meetings, the Committee's revised powers and duties are now approved and in effect.*
 - b) Nominate and elect a Vice Chair
 - Diane Welker nominated herself. Stephanie Nelson made a motion, seconded by Jonathan Coco, to elect Diane Welker as the Vice Chair for the Advisory Committee. Vote to approve was unanimous.*
 - c) Update on member terms and vacancies
 - Liaison Debbi Jackson gave a brief update on term expirations and new members who will join in the April meeting of the Advisory Committee.*
- VII. **REPORTS**
 - a) Staff Report: Quarterly Statistics

Christie Banduch gave the shelter statistic updates, including a total of 1020 animals coming into the shelter. Current population is 116 dogs and 126 cats. The live outcome rate for the quarter was 88.3%.

b) Staff Report: General Shelter Updates

DerryAnn Krupinsky reported that the City Council is considering a pet store ordinance. The shelter maintenance is nearing completion. The manager position should be announced soon, but there are a total of seven open positions at the shelter. The County is looking into building a shelter. Progress toward the Implementation plan is ongoing.

Dr. Jeff Jorgensen notes a big improvement in the overall health of shelter animals and stated that Christie has been aggressive in her efforts for treatment. He further commented that despite staff vacancies, the current employees are focused on the important issues and are doing the best that they can.

VIII. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

a) Discuss and consider items for future agendas.

- *Chairman Jorgensen requested an update on open positions and hiring efforts Diane Welker made a motion to add that to the next agenda, which was seconded by John Trinidad. All approved.*
- *Briana Brecher wants to discuss quarantine availability. Diane Welker made a motion to add to the agenda, and it was seconded by Jonathan Coco. All approved.*
- *Chairman Jorgensen later requested an update on microchip scanners throughout the county. Motion was made by Diane Welker to add to the agenda and seconded by Jonathan Coco. All approved.*

IX. **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Suzanne Lynn: Asked if a future city ordinance about pet stores would allow Pick A Pet to be 'grandfathered' in and exempt? Greg Carr responded that the City Attorney is being consulted. She asked if bite quarantines are tracked? The response was: Yes, it is a state law.

Cristen Andrews: Asked how the shelter is promoting the barn cats? Christie Banduch responded that we are working with Communications to get more promotion, and that the 'working cat' designation, if given at the time of spay/neuter, is not permanent for the cat depending on socialization.

Jennifer Hays: Asked if proper protocols were followed when 56 cats were released? It was explained that not all the cats were released at the one location noted in Pet Point, as the system is limited in its ability to track and update TNR/barn cats.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Jonathan Coco made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Steven Heath. The committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 1:30 p.m.