



ANIMAL CARE SERVICES CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 26, 2011

ATTENDANCE

Members

Stephen Cital

Becky Correia

Meghan Hertel

Eugene Lukehart

Staff

Reina Schwartz

Gina Knepp

Kim Martin

Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at the Animal Shelter Cattery, 2127 Front Street, Multipurpose Room, Sacramento, California at 6:00 p.m. by Committee Chair Meghan Hertel.

Consent Calendar

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from August 31, 2011

Motion to approve the minutes of August 31, 2011 was made by Stephen Cital and seconded by Becky Correia. The motion was approved.

Public Comments – Matters Not on the Agenda

2. There were no public comments.

Chair Reports

3. Citizens Advisory Committee Updates

Two email messages were sent to the ACSCAC; one regarding a lost cat and the other regarding pet food in a parking lot. Neither required committee action. It was clarified that when messages are sent to the committee, the sender is thanked and informed of the date of the next committee meeting and that the issue will be discussed and a response sent.

Reina provided an update on the recruitment for two members in Category C. It is anticipated that new members will be participating at the January 2012 meeting, and Becky will have completed her extended term as a member. Kim will speak to the City Clerk's Office related to recruitments for vacancies in Categories A (1 member) and B (2 members).

In the future, staff will need to go back to the Law and Legislative Committee to modify the appointment language to explicitly include shelter volunteers as potential committee members.

4. Committee Ride-along Requirement

Stephen Cital made a motion recommending that all committee members must participate in a ride-along and spend a day at the shelter.

Discussion included comments that members in Category C (general public) may have an understanding of shelter operations, and it may not be necessary for them to participate or observe daily activities.

Kim will contact the City Clerk's Office to investigate whether the encouragement of potential members to participate in a ride-along or shelter tour could be added to the ACSCAC Appointment document. A report back will be included on the next meeting agenda.

The motion was not supported.

5. Marketing Report/Communication with Council

No report was presented.

6. Manager's Report – includes Operational/Budget Update, Grand Jury Visit, ASPCA Community Partnership Update, Fundraising Opportunities, Use of Tasers, Positive Media, Volunteer Program, "How Can the ACSCAC Help?"

The FOCAS fund report was reviewed; the fund is intended for providing above and beyond animal care and enrichment and comfort. For the November meeting, it was requested that the committee bring ideas for utilization of FOCAS funds.

Reina provided background information on the issue of taser use by Animal Control Officers. For the next meeting, staff will provide the taser use procedures developed by the shelter.

Reina and Gina reported on their participation at the ASPCA Community Partner meeting in Austin, Texas:

- Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) was discussed, and funds may be available to fund a regional TNR coordinator, in efforts to minimize the amount of feral cats in shelters. The live release rate would increase if there was a managed program for ferals. There was discussion of monies going to non-native (feral) cats, that could be better spent on cats in general, and concerns with ferals interacting with cats allowed outdoors. The national trend is support of TNR programs, instead of euthanasia.

- The shelter has received materials for the "ID Me" program, which provides collars and ID tags for all animals, in efforts to reduce the amount of animals ending up in shelters. The shelter has received a year's worth of collars and machine to create ID tags.

- Long distance transport of animals has occurred, with ten Chihuahuas going from the shelter to a shelter in New York, in efforts to provide desired homes for breeds that are not as prolific in that area.

- A work plan to educate neighborhoods where stray animals are coming from is being developed.

The Grand Jury visited the shelter on September 19. The visit was very positive and the attendees were impressed with the criminal prosecution efforts and Titanic's Pantry. The Grand Jury visited the shelter, SPCA and the County's operations.

There have been stories in the media each week since July, related to shelter operations, programs and issues. Fox 40 coverage has elicited positive viewer feedback. Titanic's Pantry has become a charity of choice by a number of agencies as a result of the positive publicity received.

The Volunteer update included the following:

- The volunteers have new hats and aprons with the new logo.
- Wambui thanked Becky for her assistance with Weezy.
- World Rabies Day included 900 volunteer hours, and the shelter had the second best turn out in the region, with 140 vaccines and 40 microchips.
- A Halloween Open House will occur on October 30.
- The shelter had a presence at the City's Wellness Expo in October.

An application has been submitted to the Franchise Tax Board to withhold tax returns from individuals with unpaid citations. This could result in shelter income in April, 2012.

Staff requested the committee's assistance with disseminating emails about shelter events; "like" us on Facebook"; and recommend potential board members for the shelter's non-profit association.

7. Sacramento Collaborative Statistics

It was explained that the statistics are provided monthly to all four ASPCA partner agencies; the committee was provide with the City shelter statistics only. Emphasis will be placed on how best to get animals into homes; foster and rescue processes will need to be streamlined to make it easier and consider what is in the best interest of the animal.

8. Spay and Neuter Report

The statistics reflect a problem with no-shows; transportation could be an issue, and it has not been possible to "over-book" appointments due to the SPCA's resources. It was suggested that overbooking of male cats could be a solution, or utilize UC Davis vet students to do spay/neuter surgeries at the shelter.

The shelter will not utilize all the spay/neuter funds available for this year. Other options, such as vouchers for other vets or expanding use of the SAC program are being explored. The shelter will apply to the ASPCA for spay/neuter program grant funds.

Committee Comments, Questions and Ideas

The animal inspections for the circus ran much smoother than last year. The shelter also conducted inspections for the recent reptile show and Russian dog entertainment program.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Becky Correia and seconded by Stephen Cital. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.