



ANIMAL CARE SERVICES CITIZENS ADVISORY

MINUTES

February 27, 2007

ATTENDANCE

Members

Pat Wilcox (Absent)
Moe Ortiz
Molly Kenneth (Absent)
Debra Armstrong
Ashle Crocker (Absent)
Eugene Lukehart
Lety Sanchez, DVM (New Member)

Staff

Donna Wicky
Hector Cazares

Public

Marge Carpenter
Teresa Johnson
Pat Claerbout
Wayne Sheldon
Gail Burnham
Dia Goode
Kris Lannin

*Note: MSP is used in the minutes as an abbreviation to indicate Moved, Seconded and Passed.
MSF is used in the minutes as an abbreviation to indicate Moved, Seconded and Failed.*

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at Sacramento City Hall Building, 915 "I" Street, Room CH 1217, Sacramento, California 95814 at 6:12 p.m. by Debra Armstrong.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 30, 2007

Motion to remove the following items from the 1/30/07 minutes: Item VI. Information Items (a) Division Manager's Report #4), and Item VII. First paragraph. Motion to approve the revisions made by Moe, seconded by Eugene. Motion to approve the minutes as revised was made by Moe, and seconded by Eugene. MSP by unanimous vote.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Several members of the public (Wayne Sheldon, Teresa Johnson, Gail Burnham, Dia Goode) expressed concerns regarding Advisory Committee meeting agenda notice and

topic descriptions. Hector stated that minutes will reflect these objections and the meeting will proceed as duly noticed per the Brown Act. Public attendees Mr. Sheldon, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Burnham, Ms. Goode objected to the Animal Care Ordinance revisions as heard at City Council meeting today. These objections are noted. Meeting to proceed.

Marge Carpenter stated she wanted to include two items in this meeting: 1) Marge is supporting a "yes" vote to support the Animal Care Code revisions which were heard by Council earlier in the day, and, 2) Marge supported the Committee making a strong statement of support for implementing improved wages for shelter staff, to make parity adjustments for ACOs and ACTs to improve morale and improve shelter's recruiting potential.

Public attendee, Dia Goode, stated her objections to the description of item # VII on the 2/27/07 agenda as being too vague. Dia wants a more comprehensive description of items listed on the advisory agenda.

Pat Claerbout, Director, Sacramento County Animal Care & Regulation, attended the meeting to answer questions regarding Sacramento County AC&R position and involvement regarding animal licensing and other ordinance regulations. The County is moving forward with provisions similar to the City's animal care ordinance revisions.

IV. STAFFING AND BUDGET ISSUES

Hector will bring additional information regarding staffing and wage comparisons with other animal care agencies for committee's information to add to their letter of support for additional shelter staff. This will be forwarded to the Council for their consideration during budget hearings. Chair of the committee, Pat Wilcox, previously volunteered to draft a letter in support of additional staffing at the Shelter.

V. SPAY AND NEUTER FUND – FIRST QUARTER 2007

Donna distributed the spay/neuter revenue and expenditure reconciliation for the first half of FY 2007 (from 7/1/2006 to 12/31/2006).

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Division Manager's Report (Hector distributed the report):

1) Facilities/Equipment Update:

a) The Get Acquainted Area has been cemented in and fenced. There has been a delay in getting the holes prepared for the weather covers that have been delivered.

b) Cattery: Architect is approximately 50% complete with construction drawings and should be ready in early April (2007) to submit drawings to the building dept. for permit approvals. Hoping to go to bid in late April or early May for around 6 weeks. We should have project cost in June (2007).

c) We are continuing our pursuit of new modular buildings to house medical facilities, volunteer space, behavior testing space, grooming, etc.

d) The City has been installing a new Citywide security system for all facilities. We are in the midst of getting our id cards programmed. It should be implemented in March/April of this year.

2) Our anti-breeding ordinance will have been heard today. My expectation is that before proceeding the City Council will want to know if the Advisory Committee supports this important effort. This is why it is on the agenda for action.

3) Volunteer Hours Report for 2006: a total of 17,933 hours by 844 volunteers! We are very proud of our outstanding volunteers. For 2006, Rosemary Lamb and Barbara Liberty donated the most time - over 400 hours each!

4) Volunteer Report for January 2007 is hereby submitted (attached). Cattery Design: RFP is set for spring, groundbreaking for June 2007, expected 1 year construction time. Construction costs have increased dramatically.

5) Spay Day USA was Feb. 25th. We altered 18 dogs. Dr. Warner did a great job!

6) Volunteer Special Events Coordinator position will be interviewed in a couple of weeks. The Chief ACO closes March 2, 2007.

7) April 20th is the Law Library "Yappy Hour" adoption event at 4 – 8 p.m.

8) February 24th we participated in a "Morris 9-Lives" adoption event at Raley's on Arena Blvd.

9) Four ACOs will be attending animal cruelty training in March. Sr. ACO Pete Alarcon is in Southern California attending animal abuse investigation training.

10) SSPCA's new high volume spay/neuter clinic grand opening is May 5, 2007. We are working together on a plan to alter more animals in support of anti-breeding ordinance.

11) Dr. Warner is coordinating UC Davis vet students program to work with sick cats, including treatments, subcutaneous fluids, health checks, etc.

b. Training update
(See item #9, in preceding section).

Hector thanked Dia Goode for her contribution in the cat sick vet student volunteer program.

VII. CITY CODE REVISIONS

Hector expressed that the Animal Care Services Ordinance revisions will positively impact reducing the numbers of unwanted and abandoned animals in the City. This effort is supported by and in conjunction with other animal welfare coalitions and organizations. The largest incentive for pet owners to alter their animals is the licensing fee, which, as stated in the ordinance revisions, offers financial incentives to pet owners to spay/neuter their animals. The ordinance will allow the City to support low cost spay/neuter surgeries for the pets of the City's low-income residents. Hector stated the ordinance was heard at today's Council meeting and Council requested that the Advisory Committee vote on supporting or not supporting the ordinance.

Hector stressed the importance of taking action on this item to help reduce the animal overpopulation problem and addressed committee concerns regarding compliance

issues by stating the ordinance provides a tool for enforcement and will bring more citizens into compliance with the State mandated rabies requirement.

Mr. Sheldon expressed his concern with the number of requirements he will be made to adhere to in order to obtain a reduced fee "breeder's" license.

Ms. Johnson objected to the cost of the licensing fee for unaltered animals.

Other comments: address cat licensing (how many other cities require this: County of Sacramento – if a cat is licensed, probability of returning it to the owner is much improved, compliance with State rabies mandate is met); age of animals – some too old (certain medical exclusions accepted, with vet concurrence). Lety Sanchez (DVM) addressed the medical issues relating to older animals s/n surgery stating vets may address these concerns and provide medical reasons for or against the surgery, depending on the animal's medical status. Gail asked if other agencies were using the administrative remedy and Hector responded that yes, Code Enforcement is, City of Fremont, and others across the country.

Motion to vote on the item was made by Eugene, seconded by Moe. 3 votes in favor of supporting the ordinances, 1 abstention. Motion to support the animal care City Code Revisions passed.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Debra distributed flyers for spay/neuter clinics Puppy Love Rescue is holding. Spanish translations are available. Animal Care will help with other language translations. Debra circulated samples of the flyers and magnets that will advertise the program to help low income people with the cost of spaying and neutering their animals.

Hector and Donna thanked Debra for her many contributions on the Advisory Committee and her continuing support of the efforts to reduce the animal overpopulation numbers in the City through her generous donations of time and efforts with additional spay/neuter clinics.

IX. SET FUTURE AGENDA

Agenda items: **Call to Order and Roll call**. **Consent Calendar:** (1) Approval of minutes for 2/27/2007 (review and approve); (2) Review Committee Letter Supporting Additional Staffing and Increased Wages for Animal Care Personnel (review and approve); (3) Update on Facilities and Shelter Events (formerly Division Mgr's Information Items) (receive and file); (4) Training Update for Shelter Staff (receive and file); (5) Update on Revisions to the City Code Section 9.44 – Fees, Licenses, Criminal and Administrative Penalties, Sale and Advertisement of Animals (receive and file); **Public Comments – Matters not on the Agenda** (receive and file); (6) To be Announced; **Committee Comments, Questions and Ideas** - (7) To be announced (receive and file/approve); (8) Adjournment (approve)

X. ADJOURNMENT

Moe made motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Lety seconded. MSP by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned.