

MINUTES

On April 20, 2016, the Animal Management & Welfare Advisory Board met at 6:00 p.m. in the Council meeting room to discuss the agenda, in the City Council Chamber located on the third floor of City Hall at 509 E. 7th Avenue, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Andrea Slater Gulley	Yes	15	15
Kellie Dodson DVM	Yes	02	02
William Kearns	Yes	04	04
Dale Potter	Yes	05	05
Brooke Reeves	Yes	15	12

Also in attendance were:

Richard Havens	Director, AM&W, City of Amarillo
Christy Fischer	Asst. Director, AM&W, City of Amarillo
Mick McKamie	City Attorney, City of Amarillo
Raymond Chavez	Shelter Manager, AM&W, City of Amarillo
Jim Liggitt	Compliance Manager, AM&W, City of Amarillo
Kevin Moon	Field Services Manager, AM&W, City of Amarillo
Jeffna Cox	Admin Tech, Animal Management & Welfare, City of Amarillo
Elisa Yara	Office Manager, Animal Management & Welfare, City of Amarillo
Robin Cupell	Asst. Director, Amarillo-Panhandle Humane Society

ITEM 1: Andrea Slater Gulley called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amarillo Animal Management & Welfare Advisory Board to order at 6:00 P.M. The approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting, February 3, 2016, motion was made by Dale Potter to edit and approve with one correction. Second motion from William Kearns to edit and approve. 4:0

ITEM 2: Robin Cupell, Assistant Director of Amarillo Panhandle Humane Society gave the live release numbers for March. Live release rate was 586 for APHS. Traveling Art show has concluded. Selling the art work is in process through an auction. Unlocking Hope is showing positive success. The Champions movie is being hosted by the APHS on Thursday, May 19, 2016. An In house Vet is in the process of being hired for APHS.

ITEM 3: Richard Havens presented on Amarillo Animal Management & Welfare operations and shelter statistics for February 2016 and March 2016. Director Havens gave an update on the first and second reading of the ordinance changes that were presented in December 2015 to the Advisory Board. February 2016 reflected 844 total intake with a 24.9% euthanasia rate and 75.1% live release rate. March 2016 reflected 956 total intake with a 22.9% euthanasia rate and 77.1% live release rate. Intake to date: 2686 total intake with 23.8% euthanasia rate and 76.14% live release rate. Monthly statistics on calls and department activities were January 2016- 2476 calls for service, February 2016-2384 calls for service, and March 2016-2525 calls for service. Portalized feline cages have been put in place in the cat room at the shelter. Crijto bed cage inserts have also been added to cat kennels to continue help improve the quality of life for the cats while at the shelter. Director Havens is working on the 2016 fiscal year budget which is calling for a 3% budget reduction. He presented cutting full time officer positions before cutting capital improvement expenses to the facility. Director Havens presented his five year capital improvement plan to the board. July 27, 2016 is next scheduled Advisory Board Meeting.

ITEM 4: AM&W Director Havens presented the proposed revisions to the Trap-Neuter-Release ordinance Sec 8-2-1. The definition of Cat Colony and Community Cat were properly defined. A subsection under microchip is being proposed to be changed. An exception to Owner of a Community Cat was added. Territory was defined and the definition of TNR Program was submitted. Legal guidelines were proposed regarding the exception that Community Cats are not subject to Domestic Animal constraint requirements - Sec. 8-2-6 (a) subsection (1) a. An individual or entity engaged in an approved Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) Program does not assume custody of Community Cat for purposes of Texas Penal Code Section 42.092(b)(4) so long as the Community Cat is returned to the trap location immediately after the purpose for which the Community Cat was originally trapped has been completed. The last proposed revision is to 8-2-15(c) Community Cats will be exempt from the three (3) day impoundment requirement, and custody may be immediately transferred from the City of Amarillo to an approved Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) Program.

ITEM 5: Robin Cupell, member of the Community Cat Education Committee presented the TNR manual that would govern the TNR program within the city of Amarillo. The presentation explained mandatory requirements for the TNR program, the criteria that must be met to participate in the TNR program, the cost and who will pay for the program, program details and separate manuals for Colony Caretakers and Veterinary Professionals. A question and answer session followed between the Advisory Board members and Ms. Cupell.

Public comments:

Kay Whitmire, 5100 Picasico Drive, 79108, supports the TNR program. She stated that it was much and long needed program.

Sara Cervantez, 5207 Echo Drive, 79108, is doing work in the Spanish community for them to step up and take responsibility. She is in support of the TNR program. She wants to help in whatever way possible. She is able to translate from English to Spanish to help Spanish citizens understand documents they are signing at shelter. She has a Face book page.

Mary Herring, 5221 Mountain Drive, 79108, she supports the TNR initiative for Amarillo. She would like the definition of "feral cat" to be better defined.

Jamie Brown, 3108 Lynette, 79109, she is a foster for APHS. She personally has saved 13 cats from euthanasia. She supports the TNR program to help stop the euthanasia of so many cats in the city.

Chase Steinmetz, 5713 Spencer, 79109, supports TNR. Thanked Richard Havens for the new management of AM&W.

Casey Gray, 5102 Navajo Trail, 79110, supports TNR, but is concerned about funding for taking personal financial responsibility for starting a cat colony. She feels that funding should be established in the proposed program. She supports TNR.

Gail LaRouche, 4619 Parker, 79110, supports TNR. She does not mind that a portion of her taxes go to TNR program.

Latisha Bodkin, 7010 Covenant Lane, 79109, supports TNR program.

Melanie Davidson, 2607 S. Hayden, 79109, supports TNR program.

Randi Gutierrez, 1931 Beech Street, 79106, addressed the root cause of owners not taking responsibility to follow the law in restraining their cats. Owners need to be made to be responsible. This ordinance does not address the nuisance problems that are created by these cat communities.

Mary Katherine Sade Olsen, 3415 Lewis Lane, 79109, supports TNR Program.

Andrea Slater Gulley scheduled to reconvene an Advisory Board meeting for May 4, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. to address as an action item on TNR.

Item 6: Dale Potter, chair of the Community Education Committee presented goals, strategy development and expected implementation and timeframe of the committee. The Committee members were presented via power point presentation. Fix It Four is a Public Service Announcement to address spay and neuter in the community. Encourage public to vaccinate and check the shelter for a lost pet. APHS has given the committee \$10,000.00 for public education programs. It will encompass commercials, radio messages, billboards, car magnets and other marketing outlets. Flyers will be incorporated to publicize area programs that are available to reach all citizens in the community.

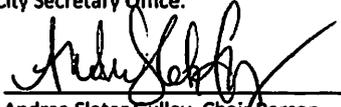
Item 7: Propose future agenda item(s). Discussion will be held to address the inhumane trapping of cats in the community.

Item 8: Public Forum

Susan Miller, 3408 Lenwood, 79109, has vaccinated dogs that were being tormented by feral cats. She trapped the feral cats and handed them over to AM&W. She was harassed later when someone in her neighborhood posted a hate message about her trapping cats. She wants AM&W not to record the addresses of people that trap and turn in feral cats. She wants personal information to be secure.

ITEM 9: There being no further business, Andrea Slater Gulley adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

This meeting was recorded and all comments are on file with the City Secretary Office.


Andrea Slater Gulley, Chair Person

ATTEST:


Elisa Yara, Office Manager,
Animal Management & Welfare Dept.