

**Animal Advisory Commission Retreat
Retreat Meeting**

RECEIVED
16 00 10

FINAL MINUTES

2016 MAR 17 PM 4: 08

Meeting Date: February 18, 2016 **Convened:** 9:30 am

Adjourned: 2:36 pm
CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

Members Present:

Peter Brodsky, Chair
Maeleska Fletes, Vice Chair
Christopher Watts
Molly DeVoss
Karen Kennedy
Sandra Luhring
Jody Jones
Deanna Saucedo
Amanda Henry
Jean-Paul Bonnelly
Judith Burnett
Patti Cody
Teresa Gubbins

Members Absent:

Briefing Presenters:

Kris Sweckard, Code Compliance Director
Jody Jones, DAS Senior Program Manager
Skip Trimble

Staff Present:

Kris Sweckard, Jody Jones, Catherine McManus, Rita Hammelman

Guests:

Skip Trimble

AGENDA:

1. Animal Advisory Commission Introductions

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky
Information Only:

Each Commission member introduced themselves, and provided members with their background, and their reasons for wanting to be on the Animal Advisory Commission.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

2. Enforcement

Presenter(s): Jody Jones, Kris Sweckard

An exercise about what we need to discuss about enforcement and what language/terms we use when talking about enforcement.

- Each member wrote down their ideas of enforcement.
- Enforcement ideas were separated into three categories: Education, Solutions and Judicial.
- Education – community advocates, mentoring, grass roots leadership, media, literature, commission leadership, reaching outside the animal welfare community, educate in the schools

- Solutions – manpower, funding, buy-in, accountability, results, technology, messaging, cooperation, communication, coordination, empowerment, collaboration
- Judicial – tickets, removing animals, enforceable laws, prosecuting, imprisonment for cruelty, mental health options, sentencing guidelines for animal crimes

A discussion of the enforcement items that each Commissioner had written down and each item was sorted into one (or more) of the three categories.

- Jody will take all of this information back to the DAS team and develop a matrix of these items and bring it back to Commission.

Mr. Sweckard provided handouts of DAS citations issued by fiscal year, a breakdown of citations by violation type for FY14/15, and breakdown of citations by status for FY13/14.

It was announced that DAS is writing Civil citations beginning with the visual citation types.

- Such as wearing registration and rabies tags, roosters, inadequate fencing, and unsanitary conditions.
- Civil citations can be left on the door or mailed, compared to criminal citations which must be issued to the person.
- Civil citations also has funding from each citation put into an Animal Welfare Fund. Distribution of Animal Welfare Fund still being developed.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): DAS to develop matrix of information collected in the exercise for Commission at a future meeting.

3. DAS Relationship with Constituencies

Presenter(s): Skip Trimble

Information Only:

Mr. Trimble discussed how to improve collaborations with all groups and the City. Mr. Trimble has experience in helping animal welfare groups/shelters/rescue groups work together on a goal. Mr. Trimble shared his thoughts with Commission:

- Common ground must be identified that everybody can get together on.
- Identify the groups and meet each group individually
- Feels strongly that smaller group meetings at first work best, then bring everyone together.
- Need to understand their issues and ask them for specific solutions to their issues.
- Review their solutions and discuss why they will or won't work, help them understand what DAS budget can and cannot support.
- Truly opposing groups probably will not find any common ground or desire to come together to work on solutions.

Discussion by commission:

- Improved trust and respect between DAS and people/animal groups needs to improve.
- Desire to sit down with all groups, one on one and as a large group.
- Use a survey first to compile data to identify issues.
- Develop an agenda with issues/concerns ranked for discussion and identify common ground.
- Then hold a group meeting with everyone for discussion on the agenda items.
- Past solutions to community issues have not been sustainable.
- Community wants tangible results, but sustainable results will take time.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

4. AAC Goals for 2016

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky

Information Only:

A discussion of the Commission's goals for the next twelve months was held. Three goals were identified:

- Unify community relations/strengthen relationships
- City Council advocacy/advocate for education, outreach & resources
- Strategic Plan/governance/budget

Peter offered to take the lead on the strategic plan. Volunteers were requested for the other two.

A discussion of the City's budget process was held:

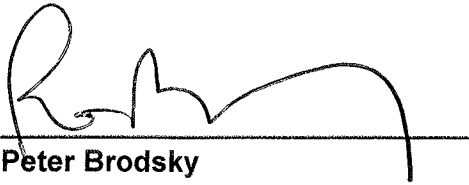
- DAS will prepare bids that are due to Code on 3/8.
- Price of government for FY16/17 asks all departments for a 7% reduction.
- DAS will prepare a maintain bid to restore the entire 7%.
- Requested items that Commission felt should be included in the bids.
- City Council presentation from 2/3/16 will be sent to members

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Requested volunteers for the lead on community relations and City Council advocacy goals. Committees need to be formed to develop plan for each goal.

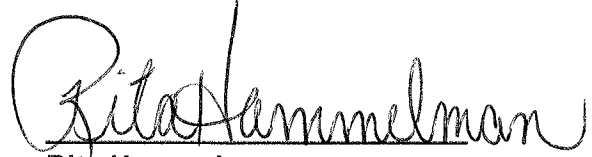
5. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be the Regular Animal Advisory Meeting to be held on March 17, 2016 beginning at 1:30 pm at the Dallas City Hall, Room 6ES.

160010



Peter Brodsky
Animal Advisory Commission Chair



Rita Hammelman
Coordinator III