

Animal Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting

15,0070
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FINAL MINUTES

2016 JAN 21 PM 3:45

Meeting Date: November 12, 2015 Convened: 1:32 pm Adjourned: 4:39 pm
CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

Members Present:

Peter Brodsky, Chair
Maeleska Fletes, Vice Chair
Christopher Watts
Molly DeVoss
Karen Kennedy
Sandra Mustafa
Jody Jones
Jennifer Roberts
Amanda Henry
Jean-Paul Bonnelly
Judith Burnett
Teresa Gubbins

Members Absent:

Julie Cassidy
Jennifer Roberts
Patricia Cody

Briefing Presenters:

Kris Sweckard, Code Compliance Director
Jody Jones, DAS Senior Program Manager
Catherine McManus, DAS Operation
Manager

Staff Present:

Jody Jones, Catherine McManus, Rita Hammelman, Lorri Ellis, Kris Sweckard, Emily Black, Sana Syed, Justin Snasel

Guests:

Lauren Odum, Mark Baker, Stephanie Timko, Jeff Berns, Deborah Whittington, Linda Yarbrough, Charlie Howell, Fran Graconnier, James Bias, Elisabeth White, Deborah Rodriguez,

AGENDA:

1. Chairman Announcements

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky

Information Only:

- 2016 Calendar
 - February 18, 2016 – Retreat at the Arboretum
- Regular Meetings
 - March 17, 2016
 - June 9, 2016
 - September 15, 2016
 - December 15, 2016

All regular meetings at City Hall, Room 6ES at 1:30PM.

2. Approval of October 1, 2015 Minutes

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): A motion was made to approve the minutes. Item passed unanimously.

3. Quality of Life Briefing Discussion

Presenter(s): Kris Sweckard

Mr. Sweckard highlighted below.

- Quality of Life (QOL) was briefed on October 26, 2015 on the Southern Dallas Initiative.
- Briefing outlined 5 target areas. One area per month starting in November 2015.
- Area 'hot spots' were defined by using DPD's CAD system and DAS CSR system. Mapped calls related to loose dog issues.
- Council Members with areas defined in their district were consulted.
- Discussion:
 1. November area was in District 4. Two days of data collected at time of meeting was presented.
 2. Utilizing existing resources in target area. Dedicated 2 trucks every Tuesday and Thursday to patrol the area looking for violations, providing education to citizens in responsible pet ownership, picking up loose animals, returning animals to owners. A survey is conducted at the beginning of the month, and again at the end of the month to measure efforts. Signs are being posted that DAS is in the area, along with door hangers and Next Door is also being utilized.
 3. Efforts in the Dowdy Ferry area was asked about. Mr. Sweckard stated that efforts in that area were ongoing with DPD, Marshall's Office, Code Compliance, DAS and 311.
 4. Mr. Sweckard states next steps for QOL is to share data collected on target areas probably in January 2016, and start discussing plan to move forward in April 2016.
 5. Mr. Brodsky reported nothing new on the DAS strategic plan. Stated that the commission would like to be involved in the plan development, but stressed that the plan was the City's plan to develop. Mr. Brodsky is also looking for a consultant to assist DAS with the plan, and would like to meet with Mr. Sweckard to discuss what the planning process will look like.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): Discussion and Commission recommendations for Quality of Life (QOL) on the following:

1. Foster Home Program – Commission recommends program to QOL. Requested DAS to research cost of program and Commission will assist with a detailed program recommendation at a later date.
2. Mandatory Microchipping – Commission recommends ordinance change.
3. Additional Facilities – Commission recommends spay/neuter facilities rather than another shelter at this time.

4. Fee Study Recommendations

Presenter(s): Jody Jones

Information Only:

DAS was asked to review the fee schedule and recommend to Commission changes to the current fee structure. DAS recommends that the following fees go back to the amounts charged prior to the changes made on October 1, 2015.

Service Name	Fees Adopted October 1, 2015	DAS Recommends
Rabies	\$19	\$10
Animal Control Administrative Fee (Boarding)	\$15	\$10
Animal Control Fee (Impound - by City)	\$50	\$27
Animal Control Fee (Impound - Other than City employee)	\$50	\$27
Surgery (Spay/Neuter - Dog)	\$139	\$60
Surgery (Spay/Neuter - Cat)	\$139	\$60

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): Commission recommends changing the fees to amounts charged prior to October 1, 2015.

5. Dog Parks

Presenter(s): Jody Jones

Information Only:

The below was presented.

- Dog Parks in the City are planned and constructed through the Park and Recreation Department (PKR).
- DAS does not participate in the planning or operation of the Dog Parks.
- The City relies on volunteers to help enforce rules at dog parks. White Rock Dog Park is having challenges in managing posted rules, in particular; dogs not altered, aggressive dog behavior, user not pooper scooping after their pet and small children playing in the dog park.

Ms. Jones stated that DAS has reached out to the PKR and a planning meeting is scheduled for November. DAS will suggest partnering with PKR to help train security guards for the dog parks. Ms. Jones also indicated that a budget bid will be prepared for FY16/17 to provide enforcement assistance to all parks, not just the dog parks.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

6. Animal Services Manager’s Report

Presenter(s): Catherine McManus

Information Only:

A briefing of DAS operations, priorities and accomplishments was presented. Some of the highlights included the following for September and October 2015:

- Placement Results for September were 1,215 live releases resulting in a 61.4% live release rate for all animals. In October there were 1,382 live releases resulting in a 61.8% live release rate for all animals.
- The fiscal year report for 2014/15 was presented. A new fiscal year record live release rate for FY14/15 was 52.2% for all animals.
- Field Services update on the development of the Southern Dallas Initiatives.

- Specific update given on the November targeted area in District 4, in which 2 days were completed.
 - 153 doors knocked on. Flyers on City Ordinances, low cost vaccinations and Spay Neuter Network's services were distributed.
 - 9 animals were impounded.
 - 10 citations were issued.
 - 33 proactive service requests were created.
- Hiring status update through 10/31/15 was presented.
 - 49 hires to fill 41 vacancies. (includes 8 double fills)
 - Additional pay for all DAS staff began October 1.
 - Participated in 3 hiring events with TX Workforce Solutions.
 - Advertised in five trade journals.
 - Processed 434 applications
 - Conducted 75 interviews.
 - Offer letters out to 17 ASO approved applicants.
- Volunteer Coordinator Tisha-Vonique Hood introduced. Volunteer Program launch January 1, 2016.
- Justin Snasel from the City's Public Information Office presented the Dallas Pets Campaign. Planned launch date: November.

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

7. Commission Topics

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky

City email addresses for Commission:

Commission researched using City of Dallas email addresses for commission business.

- City would prefer that Commission not use cityofdallas.com address.
- Commission members cannot be required to use city issued address.

Discussion held about using City address for Commission business only and that attention be taken to not conduct business by email with a quorum of members. Additional information from the City is needed and the City would need to issue the addresses.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Commission was polled and majority of members would like City issued email addresses.

Ordinance Enforcement:

Members listed concerns:

- Tethering.
- Criminal Citations vs Civil Citations.
 - Ordinance change was approved.
 - Processes between multiple departments still being developed. Estimated that process development is 50% complete.
- Loose Owned Dogs.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Discussion of ordinance enforcement and citations should be a Retreat agenda item.

Spay/Neuter:

- Increase either City funding or seek more private funding for surgeries.
- Availability of bond funding for clinic facilities.

General consensus of Commission that additional spay/neuter resources is high priority.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Requested Mr. Sweckard to provide Commission information to obtain bond funding consideration for spay/neuter facilities.

8. Public Comments

The following citizens stated their full name, address, and raised their concerns:

Fran Graconnier, District 1 – Asked how her neighborhood will be safe from loose dogs.

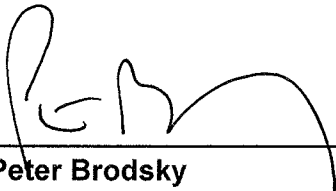
Stephanie Timko, District 7 – Would like the Commission meetings to offer open dialogue with citizens. Asked why the enforcement conversation is about beginning enforcement when enforcement should already be in place.

Deborah Whittington, District 1 – Voiced her concern that animal related discussions at the City is leaving out community involvement.


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

9. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be the Commission Retreat held on February 18, 2016 beginning at 9:00 am at the Dallas Arboretum.



Peter Brodsky
Animal Advisory Commission Chair



Rita Hammelman
Coordinator III