

Animal Advisory Commission
Special Meeting

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FINAL MINUTES

2017 JUN -2 PM 3:27

Meeting Date: January 26, 2017 **Convened:** 1:32pm **Adjourned:** 4:48pm

Members Present:

Peter Brodsky, Chair
Maeleska Fletes, Vice Chair
Christopher Watts
Molly DeVoss
Karen Kennedy
Sandra Luhring
Pat Rodriguez
Stephanie Kunkle-Timko
Ryan McComber
Judith Burnett
Patti Cody
Teresa Gubbins

Members Absent:

Briefing Presenters:

Kris Sweckard, Code Compliance Director
Bonnie Hill, DAS Project Manager
Major Barbara Hobbs, Major of Police
Ann Barnes, DAS Manager

Staff Present:

Bianca Johnson, Elida Acosta, Max Geron, Gabby Vannini, Bonnie Hill, Rita Hammelman, Kris Sweckard, Barbara Hobbs, Ann Barnes, Chief Hanson Dallas City Marshall

Guests:

Rebecca Whitehouse, Jennifer Warren, Lynnette Harren, Jessamine Smith, Kerri Stavros, Jeff Berns, James Gilcrease, Fran Graconnier, Charlie Howell, Meagan Probus, Hasani Burton, Jeremy Boss

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky
Information Only:

2. Approval of December 15, 2016 Minutes

Corrections to the Minutes: Ms. Kunkle-Timko: regarding comment on report that her comment was unintelligible, the word she used was recidivism, regarding DPA PASS program, whether or not tracking owners assisted and eventually came back and turned their animal in later.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

3. DAS Definition and Measure of Success

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky
Information Only:

- Mr. Brodsky: opened with the recommendation from BCG to come up with what is the definition of success. AAC should have a shared understanding of when we should be pleased and/or displeased of what is going on at DAS, must articulate beforehand what we are looking for DAS to achieve. Goes without says that

everyone wants is for every animal to be well treated, every animal has a home, every animal has a positive outcome from DAS and every human is safe in the streets. Not achieved immediately, more quantitative metrics to define success. Shared agreement how define success so that if DAS achieves it is pre-agreed that is successful, if not we know that adjustments need to be made. Immediate thought on measuring success.

- Ms. Fletes: stated to include the live release rate to get healthy adoptable animals out, and healthy adoptable treatable animals out.
- Mr. Brodsky: What is the live release rate that you would consider a success for healthy adoptable treatable animals?
 - Ms. Fletes: 90%
 - Ms. DeVoss: Since DCAP launched with the initiative that DAS to be a no kill shelter that we reach whatever percentage that is nationally acceptable as that.
- Mr. Brodsky: Is that 90% of all animals or just the healthy treatable animals?
 - Ms. Fletes: Believes it's just the healthy treatable animals because we can get animals that are too sick to help.
- Mr. Brodsky: Denominator is Healthy, Adoptable and Treatable, numerator is animals that left with positive outcome. Agreeing that goal is 90% gets closed to the goal of success? How could DAS do that if they are receiving 15% not healthy?
 - Ms. DeVoss: If the restrictions are placed at healthy, adoptable, treatable that work is already done. In addition to LLR have underlying overall number as dual benchmark.
 - Ms. Fletes: We have done this before and would like to look at the numbers that we have come up with. I would like to do homework before we give numbers.
- Ms. Kinkle Timko: Track accidental/unattended euthanasia.
 - Ms. Kunkle-Timko explained any animals that was put down but tagged, pre-adopted or rescue. I think that will help us clean up whatever those issues are.
- Ms. Rodriguez: Increase adoptions by a certain percentage. The live release rate also includes animals being tagged by rescue. What type of programs do they have to get more dogs adopted?
 - Ms. Burnett: When talking about transfers versus adoptions, is with the transfer means that the pet may not necessarily get adopted but going to a rescue organization. I think it would be good for both increase in transfer and adoptions.
 - Ms. Fletes: added for animals that come through the shelter we can measure those animals that are spayed/neutered.
- Mr. Brodsky: This is a one of the keys way as a community to know that we are solving this problem. As agreed 85% live release rate.
- Mr. Watts: Suggested higher increase in citations being closed in a timely fashion, instead of getting reports on how many citations has been issued, how long have they been opened, were they resolved and how they were resolved. I think that will help is get a clearer picture as well.

- Ms. Rodriguez stated two reasons:
 - These officers go out and find people that are doing bad things to animals and what people do is that they do not come to the door and you can't get them. I feel what will happen is a citation is written and not closed because that person is not participating. What can DAS do about that?
- Mr. Watts answered that is something that we have to clearly look at but when we see an increase in something that is being reported to us the next part is to see how it is being closed or handled.
- Mr. Brodsky suggested reduction in bites by loosed owned and/or stray dogs.
- Ms. Fletes added vaccinated and microchipped with spay/neuter to be tracked together by found dogs.
- Mr. Brodsky assigned if you have suggested something, you have to come to the next meeting with a quantification and ad justification of why that is a definition of success.
- Mr. Brodsky added a reduction of different type of phone calls such as 911 bite calls, 311 bite calls, and 311 loose dog calls.
 - Ms. Kunkle-Timko added if we consider tracking the 311 loose dog calls, is there some way to pars out in the data percentage of resolution.
- Mr. Brodsky included they he would like to see that we are meeting the level of agreement on response time.
- Mr. Watts added Customer Service surveys. We only had 471 done in December, which reflects only 2% of the population of calls that has happened.
 - Mr. Brodsky asked are you suggesting that we should have a minimum number of surveys completed as a success ratio.
 - Mr. Watts answered he would love to see an increase of those surveys being filled out because we are going to get a truer picture from the people that has dealt with the shelter.
- Review
 - Live Release Rate: Maeleska Fletes and Molly DeVoss
 - Minimum Mistakes: Pat Rodriguez and Molly DeVoss
 - Adoption vs. Transfer: Judi Burnett
 - Percentage of animals brought to DAS spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped: Maeleska Fletes
 - Reduction of loose dogs repeat census
 - Citations both the numbers and resolutions: Chris Watts
 - Bite Reductions: Peter Brodsky
 - 311/911 calls: Peter Brodsky
 - Response Time: Peter Brodsky
 - Surveys: Chris Watts
- Mr. Brodsky stated that we will deal with these on the next meeting to quantify, this will give us the opportunity to meet with management as to what they think is realistic to quantify at the next meeting.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

4. Dangerous Dog

Presenter(s): Kris Sweckard

Information Only:

- Mr. Sweckard: As of now the Dangerous Dog Program is still with Code Compliance, we are in the process of transitioning. We have had meetings with Major Hobbs and Ann Barnes to do this. Mr. Sweckard: Currently within Code we are reviewing and making edits to the process, procedures, the roles and responsibilities of the people that we have administrating this program. We anticipate completing the initial review and updates by February, as well as administrating staffing and timing. We will fast track this on hiring someone in DAS as soon as possible.
 - Mr. Brodsky: Are you seeking and getting input from members of the commission on ways that this process can be improved.
- Mr. Sweckard: Recommendations were part of the City Auditors report. I believe the improvements will happen once the program is transferred to DAS that was the original plan. The biggest thing that was recommended to be change was the State Law, where an affidavit had to be filed by a witness which would take some time to change.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

5. Intact Licenses/Permits

Presenter(s): Bonnie Hill and Major Barbara Hobbs

Information Only:

- Ms. Hill: listed the changes that were recommended, age limits to be dropped for 6 months of age to 4 months of age, a limit of 2 intact permits per household, any animal that has received an intact permit be registered under a legal registry such as an AKC also to be trained for agility, herding or some type of show dog. It was also recommended to be looked at by a Veterinarian to be sure that the pet is healthy enough to be bred, Pet owner has to be registered as a Texas business and paying income tax on the sale of their puppies. They also need to show their tax license and permit number any time they are trying to sell a puppy.
 - Mr. Brodsky: Are those all objective, verifiable facts. How can you prove if they are actively seeking to improve their training?
- Ms. Hill: We would have them show proof that they paid a fee or have an award for that show. Showing proof that they are AKC Registered.
 - Mr. Brodsky: How did you come up with the process for these recommendations, did you look at other ordinance from other cities?
- Ms. Hill: We reviewed ordinances from other cities, the best one that is out there right now is Los Angeles so we took a lot from them.
 - Ms. Timko: We cannot increase the fee. Should this be changed from a permit to a license?
 - Mr. Brodsky: It is not legal for the city to make a profit from permit and license, you are only allowed to charge what cost the city to have this permit.

- Ms. Timko: Disagrees, in the month of December we issued 51 intact permits, but listed and registered as unaltered was 199. If you have a part time salary person over this, than that can determine on how much it actually cost the city.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

6. Tethering

Presenter(s): Ann Barnes and Major Barbara Hobbs

Information Only:

- Ms. Barnes: We don't get many complaints on tethering, but the complaints that we do get we have to prove that the animal has been tied up for three hours straight. We do ask the owner to take the dog off the tether but the next week we will find the dog in the street.
 - Mr. Brodsky: Agrees with question about tethering. Would tethering be an answer? Given the loose dog problem you are trying to find the lessor of the two evils.
 - Ms. Rodriguez: If tethering is your only option you shouldn't have a dog. Should make people ashamed of tethering their dog.
 - Mr. Watts: It's the context of the dog being tethered. In order to make better changes in the tethering laws it will need to be a lot more than embarrassing people. You have to understand why they are doing it and educate and find other solutions.
 - Ms. Fletes: Tethering is not the best case scenario and you can't just ban it. If we are going to make the laws you need to come up with an answer for them.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

7. Dowdy Ferry

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky

Information Only:

- Mr. Brodsky mentioned that this is a topic that we hear a lot about. This is a decade old problem in the city. The problem that I see is that this is a problem without one solver; you have multiple agencies and jurisdictions that are responsible for different parts in this problem. Probably the smallest role to play in this is Dallas Animal Services, due to us being the Animal Commission and Dallas Animal Services deals with animals I think it perceived by the public that this is something that we should proactively try to address, even though we are not powered or funded to do that. So let talk about what are the agencies that are responsible, what are their roles and responsibilities, and maybe come up with some recommendations for the City about how this is going to be dealt with.
- Major Hobbs stated that the MOU with the SPCA to investigate animal cruelty began in the fall and approved by the full council in December. They are currently on investigating the in the Southeast Patrol, but as they gain more peace officers they

will take up more of the City of Dallas. We are concentrating on the Southern sector first and eventually they will take up the entire city and criminal investigations.

- Chief Hanson stated that one of their responsibilities is illegal dumping and one of the most chronic sites in the City of Dallas is Dowdy Ferry. It represents a major challenge for us that the stretch of Dowdy Fair that gets dump on is almost a mile long, so deploying cameras is very difficult in that area and actually catching license plates that is where the challenge lies. Other dump site are fairly small but Dowdy Ferry is one of the site that hard to get a handle on, we have had success in arresting some people that are dumping specifically those that dump dead animals and we do call Dallas Animal Services to come out and view what we find.
- Mr. Brodsky asked when DAS comes out what occurs.
- Major Hobbs answered if the animal is deceased each of our ASO's has a scanner and they scan for a microchip, they also look for anyway to identify the animal such as a collar or tag. If we come out and believe that it was animal cruelty then the ASO's will call DPD, they come out and make an offense of animal cruelty and DPD calls SPCA if there is not witnesses they will come out and see what they can find to try to identify the animal but if theirs not then that case will be close or suspended.
- Ms. Timko asked do you know how many calls at Dowdy Ferry that DAS has responded to. Since SPCA started responding to request for animal cruelty investigations do you know how many DAS has actually called DPD on that then referred to SPCA to have them come out and look at a body on Dowdy Ferry.
- Major Hobbs answered I can get the information for those questions to you.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

8. Commission Relations

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky

Information Only:

- Discussion among Commission members of issues and concerns.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

9. Public Comments

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

- Mr. Hasani Burton: After reviewing and analyzing the BCG recommendations, would like to see more innovative ways to tackle the bigger issues by taking out small chunks. Would like to see more immediate things that the City, Commission, and the community can uphold. Would like to see more diversity on the Commission.
- Mr. Erik Wilson, Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem: Commendations to the Commission of their service. Dowdy Ferry is better but not where it should be. Dowdy Ferry is the place that people go to dump their trash, cars, bodies, animals etc. It is a cultural haven where people can go to just dump things. It will not be fixed over night, but it is being addressed every day. Information that is being posted on Facebook needs to correct and being defined as City of Dallas and Dallas County. Commends Major

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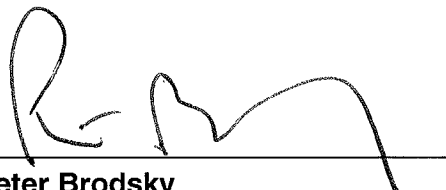
Hobbs, would prefer that DPD not be involved, the ASO can write citations just like DPD does. The City Manager would like to address the animal issue and he will address the issue. Extended an invitation for the Commission to come meet the City Manager. Where is the wild animal issue being addressed? Recommends the commission to meet monthly to be able to resolve the animal issues. Expand the role of the commission to include more than just the dogs and cats.

- Ms. Megan Probus: lives on Dowdy Ferry. Once a month they are burning animals and cars in that area. She calls in with animal cruelty. One person shows up and they never hear about it again. She is willing to volunteer and assist in any way to make Dowdy Ferry better.
- Mr. Jeremy Boss: Citizens deserve to know what is going. Part of the problem is with the County, he has not heard from the Animal Commission. City Council needs to come together and do it together. It's been two years and it's getting better but he is still finding dead dogs in bags. Dead dogs are trash and the Marshals confirmed that. He wants the City Council to work the County to locate the people that are dumping the dogs and deal with them. They are being dumped in the same spot, in the same type bag and the knot is the same. He wants to know why he was being trailed by a DPD officer. The City Council needs to work with the Commission and the citizens.

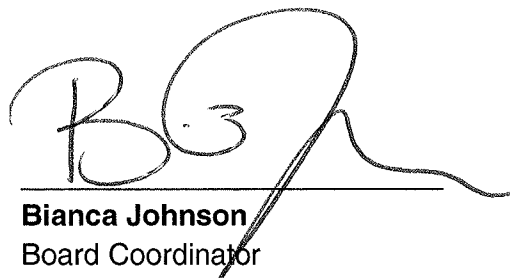
Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

10. Next Meeting

- Next meeting Major Hobbs will do a full report of DAS activity including the implementation of the BGC plan.



Peter Brodsky
Animal Advisory Commission Chair



Bianca Johnson
Board Coordinator