

**Animal Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting**

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FINAL MINUTES

2017 JUN -2 PM 3:27

Meeting Date: March 9, 2017

Convened: 1:37pm

Adjourned: 4:19pm

Members Present:

Peter Brodsky, Chair
Maeleska Fletes, Vice Chair
Molly DeVoss
Karen Kennedy
Sandra Luhning
Ryan McComber
Teresa Gubbins

Members Absent:

Christopher Watts
Pat Rodriguez
Hasani Burton
Stephanie Kunkle-Timko
Judith Burnett
Patti Cody

Briefing Presenters:

Major Barbara Hobbs, Major of Police
Ann Barnes, DAS Manager
Chhunny Chhean, Asst. City Attorney
Kanesia Williams, Asst. City Attorney
Margaret Wright, 311 Asst. Director

Staff Present:

Bianca Johnson, Elida Acosta, Bonnie Hill, Rita Hammelman, Kris Sweckard, Barbara Hobbs, Ann Barnes, Kanesia Williams, Margaret Wright, Chhunny Chhean

Guests:

James Bias, Deborah Rodriguez, Fran Gaconnier, Gabriela Pataro

AGENDA:**1. Call to Order**

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky
Information Only: 1:37pm

2. Approval of January 26, 2017 Minutes

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): Recommendation to redo the minutes to summarize the conversation and approve at the next meeting.

3. DAS Updates and Status of BCG Recommendations

Presenter(s): Major Barbara Hobbs
Information Only:

- Loose Dogs
 - We currently have 49 Animal Service Officers. We have 4 open positions, 3 of those positions will be filled at the end of this month.
 - We have expanded the Animal Service Officers shift coverage and added an overnight shift.
- Digital Marketing
 - 110% increase on people reached
 - 36% increase in post engagements
 - 153% increase in video views
 - 2,017 new likes, passing 50,000 total likes

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- Live Release Rate
 - Take additional photos to improve adoptability of the animals
 - Increase Facebook promotion of animals by using Facebook Live and Puppy Facebook
 - Our Foster Program is growing with the assistance of the Volunteer Program and City PIO
 - We are working with Dallas Pets Alive and SPCA on their Retention Program
- Spay and Neuter
 - We are a part of the Spay Neuter Network internship with Texas A&M. We have 3rd and 4th year students coming to the shelter for 1-2 weeks at a time to get experience in a shelter environment.
 - We are sharing data information with Companion Animal Funders Coalition and Care Team on a geographic area based on the number of citations that are given in that area.
- Collaboration
 - Open Access to DAS Data, Field and Shelter data available online. Medical data should be available by the end of March
- Accountability
 - We are working through the process of DAS being an independent department and that recommendation will go to City Council next month.
- Efficiency
 - DAS is looking at data we can use to set individual employee metrics as well as department goals.
 - Our volunteer program is growing, not only do we have individual but corporate and groups that are coming to volunteer.
 - Building a foster program to support DAS programs has been implemented not only internally but with the partnership of City of Dallas: PIO and the dog program for the First Responders Dallas Pets in the shelter.

The following were questions from the Commissioners to Major Hobbs with her response:

- Mr. Brodsky - With the expanded hours for the ASO's, are you finding that we are getting a return on that? Are they finding that there are more dogs out overnight?
 - What we found is we can do trapping because it's not as hot especially in the summer time hours. We can also look at calls that we have for pack of dogs. We are a little more successful in the evenings and overnight where there in not many people moving around.
- Mr. Brodsky – There is an increase in the number of citations that have been written. Are you keeping track of what is becoming of those citations?
 - There is no information coming back to DAS, it's all held in the municipal courts. We do get occasional updates through the ACM other than that we have no updates from the City municipal as to the amount of tickets or citations that are paid and those that are outstanding.
- Mr. Brodsky – Is there any other major category of data that should and/or could be put online?

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- We took the standard of how the police department releases data which is strictly by the Open Records Act.
- Mr. Brodsky – If someone wants to track an individual animal from the time they were picked up until the outcome, can they now do that through the open data portal?
 - Yes they can. The only medical data that will be given out on the outcome of an animal will be the ones that are still in the shelter.
- Ms. DeVoss – On the live release rate for all redemptions that increased 105%, is that because of the field RTOs?
 - Part of that is for the field RTOs. We have placed an emphasis on returning an animal to their owner in the field as opposed to bringing them into the shelter.
- Ms. DeVoss – On spay and neuter for DAS surgeries statistic, are these just the animals that have been adopted or transferring to rescue?
 - Yes, as well as return to owner.
- Ms. DeVoss – For the Transfer Coordinator position, do we have an additional third person?
 - Yes, we have another position and will be interviewing soon.
- Ms. Fletes – Is it possible to measure since the BCG Report started?
 - We can do an average of FY15/16 for the same months IN FY16-17.
- Ms. Fletes – Can you explain the transfer on intake program?
 - The transfer on intake program will happen when a citizen comes to DAS to relinquish their animal. On scheduled days Dallas Pets Alive and SPCA is at our facility and if they are interested in taking that animal into their rescue or foster program, then we enter the animal in our system and give it an outcome to that rescue. The animal would immediately go out to that rescue.
- Ms. Gubbins- Why are we suddenly missing Vets? Is it a salary issue?
 - We had 2 contract Vets that resigned. We are looking for contract Vets because they are a lot quicker to come through the HR system.
- Ms. Gubbins – What is the status of the MOU's?
 - We are looking for high volume transfer partners that actually have a physical facility, because they would be able to take more animals because they have more space.
- Ms. Gubbins – Do all groups have to have MOU's? Do any of them have them yet?
 - No, they do not all have to have MOU's only those that have a physical shelter facility.
- Ms. Fletes – On the transfers that pull 1000 animals from DAS that don't have a physical shelter, is there an agreement with them? What perks do they get?
 - No, we are using the approved transfer partner application. We have a new transfer program that is fee based. If a partner takes an animal as is, there is no charge. If the transfer partner would like the animal to be micro chipped and vaccinated it is \$15, or spay/neuter, microchipped and vaccinated it is \$35.

- Ms. DeVoss – Did we issue 153 Intact Animal Permits?
 - I will have to check, but we have issued a lot of permits. Recently we had 10 people on our Responsible Pet Course get a permit.
- Ms. DeVoss – Spay Days we went to zero, is that due to the DCAP situation?
 - We did not partner with anyone on the month of January.
- Ms. DeVoss – Why are we impounding cats from the field?
 - That is because we had a lot of people that have trapped cats or are flagging officers down to hand them a cat.
- Ms. DeVoss – With redemption of dogs increased, is that primarily due to the work in the field?
 - We are in the field to talk to neighbors that will help us identify the owner and then RTO in the field.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

4. Definition of Success with Metrics

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky

Information Only: The purpose for this is not to define success in any given year.

- Live Release Rate: Mr. Brodsky recommend that we follow the BCG recommendation and form a subcommittee of 4 to 5 people that will meet between this meeting and the next meeting and come back with a formal recommendation that can be debated and discussed.
 - Subcommittee formed: Peter Brodsky, Molly DeVoss and Maeleska Fletes
- Mistaken Euthanasia: Ms. DeVoss stated that we all agreed our target for mistaken euthanasia should be that it doesn't ever happen.
 - Defined as any animal that is euthanized before its stray hold time is up; unless the animal has untreatable illness or injuries that the vet staff deems cruel to sustain.
 - Any animal that is euthanized during the time period a microchip is being verified or registered owner is being located; unless the animal has untreatable illness or injuries that the vet staff deems cruel to sustain.
 - It's euthanized even though it has a valid tag from an approved DAS rescue partner; which would be defined as a confirmation of email received from rescue partner officially tagging the animal from DAS rescue employee.
 - An adoption in progress; which an adoption application and fee have been received at DAS adoption desk, also include EAC.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

5. Spay/Neuter Surge Update

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky

Information Only:

- The BCG report mandated that there was only so much that DAS could do in funding spay/neuter so DAS would have to rely on outside funding.
- There has been a coalition put together. We have hired someone that is acting as General Manager that will be helping with fundraising and data analysis.
- The coalition is the SPCA, Spay Neuter Network, and Operation Kindness. These are the three groups that the funders are considering funding.
- The acting General Manger is Aaron Asmus, formerly with PetSmart Charities.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

6. Ordinance Change Update

Presenter(s): Major Barbara Hobbs, Chhunny Chhean, and Kanesia Williams

Information Only:

- With recommendation by the AAC and Quality of Life, DAS has been working in conjunction with the City Attorney's Office to move forward with Chapter 2 and Chapter 7 in making the ordinance more concise.
- The commission must meet at least four (4) times a year.
- Change the definition of stray to a generic term for all animals.
- Include contact number and email to address notification of animal impoundment.
- Pet owners have 20 days from the date a citation is issued to provide current vaccinations, spay/neuter, registration, and microchip.
- Eliminate pet registration and require mandatory microchipping for all pets.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): Commission recommended ordinance change to eliminate pet registration and require microchip.

7. Hot Spot Discussion

Presenter(s): Major Barbara Hobbs and Ann Barnes

Information Only: How does DAS determine hot spots? What happens when an area is deemed to be a hotspot?

- The most aggressive and bite calls that are called in, because those are the high priority calls to address those neighborhoods.
- The loose animal calls that come in, they are not aggressive animals but we get lots of calls for a loose animal that is running down the street.
- Hotspot mapping tracks the volume of calls in a neighborhood and allow DAS to drill down to those neighborhoods to see concentrations of loose calls that we are not getting to. We then do special operations in those areas to pick up those animals to give relief to the neighborhoods.

The following were questions from the Commissioners to Major Hobbs with her response:

- Mr. Brodsky – What do you do in that hotspot area that is different than a non-hotspot area?
 - We use a team of ASOs to go in and pick up animals that are running loose. We also follow a lot of them back home to their owners, where we have discussions on confinement of their animals and/or issue citations.
- Mr. Brodsky – Do you find that you do have a reduction?
 - We look at the density of the calls and we do see a reduction as we are working.

8. Usage of 311 App Discussion

Presenter(s): Margaret Wright

Information Only: The usage of the 311 app is low, is the app easier a

- There are two types of calls that are available on the app.
 - Loose Owned Dog
 - Stray Dog
- There are some service requests regarding animals that we do not want customers to use the app for. If you need a response or someone dispatched don't use the app, we prefer that you call us to get a faster response.

The following were questions from the Commissioners to Margaret Wright with her response:

- Mr. Brodsky – Why is it a faster response by phone?
 - We have a dispatch crew that works with DAS Field Officers by radio; they will give them the Mapsco location, the address and let them know the issue so it is a faster response because they are dealing with the officers that are out there in the field.
- Mr. Brodsky – Are you getting usage you want out of the app?
 - Since October 1st we have had about 750 stray dog requests, the loose owned was about 450. We are always happy for people to use the mobile app to the extent. If there is a way to publicize this we are happy to do so.
- Mr. Brodsky – How many calls have you gotten in that time/?
 - Possibly thousands. Last fiscal year we have 38,000 calls total submitted by the app, not just animal calls. It's just a matter of building awareness.

9. Public Comments

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

Speaker: Deborah Rodriguez

Subject: Shelter Report Archive

Speaker: Gabriela Pataro

Subject: Aussie Puppy

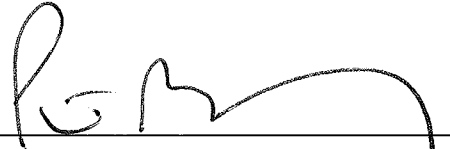
Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

10. Adjourn

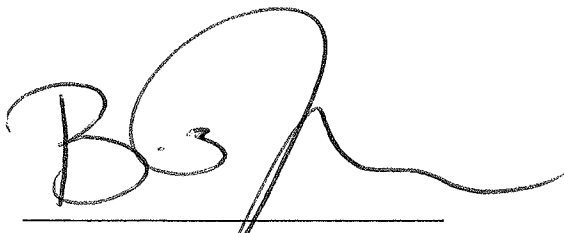
4:19p.m.

11. Next Meeting

April 27, 2017 at City Hall Room 6ES at 1:30p.m.



Peter Brodsky
Animal Advisory Commission Chair



Bianca Johnson
Board Coordinator