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**Animal Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting**

FINAL MINUTES

2018 MAY 10 PM 3:33
CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

Meeting Date: January 29, 2018 **Convened:** 1:31 pm **Adjourned:** 4:16 pm

Members Present:

Peter Brodsky, Chair
Maeleska Fletes, Vice Chair
Kevin Gibbs
Molly DeVoss
Karen Kennedy
Sandra Luhring
Pat Rodriguez
Stephanie Timko
Stephen Edison
Ryan McComber
Ruth Steward
Teresa Gubbins

Members Absent:

Judith Burnett
Charlotte New

Briefing Presenters:

Ed Jamison, Director
Ryan Rogers, Asst. Director
Ernie Lampkin, DAS Manager
Kellie Snider, DAS Manager
Ann Barnes, DAS Manager

Staff Present:

Bianca Johnson, Ann Barnes, Ed Jamison, Ryan Rogers, Kellie Snider, Ernie Lampkin, Kanesia Williams, Chhunny Chhean, and Nadia Chandler- Hardy

Guests:

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky
Information Only:

- Thanks to Chris Watts, who has served on the board for 8 years. Welcome new commissioners Kevin Gibbs representing District 1 and Ruth Steward representing District.

2. Approval of November 19, 2017 Minutes

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): A motion was made by Maeleska Fletes and second to approve the minutes was Pat Rodriguez.

3. DAS Management Reports

Presenter(s): Ed Jamison
Information Only:

- Background
 - Defining Success in FY 2017-2018
 - Dashboard of our performance to date
 - Warrant Roundups, Ordinances, and Rescue Group Relationships

- DAS Doctrine
 - Everything that we do we try to keep these three topics in mind:
 - Public Safety
 - Compassion for Animals and Citizens
 - No Shortcuts
- Defining Success in FY 2017-2018
 - Dog Intake by the Field to be 19,500
 - 82% Live Release Rate
- Dashboard of our performance-to-date
 - Three major categories:
 - Promote public safety
 - Quality of Animal Treatment
 - Stakeholders
 - Stakeholders can be citizens, rescue groups, large or small organizations that are helping with the animals.
 - Public Safety
 - Total dog intake by field and shelter has increased by 13%.
 - Dog Field intake has increased by 34% compared to last fiscal year.
 - Loose and Loose Owned Dog bites has decreased by 25%.
 - Loose and Loose Owned Dog calls has decreased by 27%.
 - The percentage of animals already spayed and neuter has increased by 21%.
 - Quality of Treatment
 - Live Release rate has increased by 13%. We are testing out other methods to increase this rate.
 - Live Release Rate for Cats and Dogs split. Cats are always lower with the 84% of Dogs.
 - The average length of stay is around 7 days.
 - We are going to start treating heartworm positive dogs by May 2018.
 - The Quality of stay score will include how many times a day they go outside, how many times a day they are fed, etc.
 - Stakeholders
 - The City will be starting Citizen Surveys on how well the City is doing.
 - An Adoption survey is to identify the adopters 30 days out to see if the animal is doing as expected.
 - Top Rescue Partners
 - Rockwall Pets 317
 - SPCA of Texas 221
 - Spay Neuter Network 211
 - Dallas Pets Alive 167
 - Operation Kindness 119
 - There is a slight reduction of 9% in adoptions returned.
 - The percentage of visitor that come in to adopt has decreased 22%, but we are seeing a lot more visitors.

- Items in Motion
 - Playgroups are running regularly
 - Running our 3rd Ops Team on Wednesdays
 - 40,000 nights and weekends calls are going to 311
 - Expansion of Adoption Hours
 - Loose calls are now being dispatched
- Warrant Roundup
 - Began on January 20th
 - Cleared 500 animal warrants
 - Working with Dallas Marshall's Office

The following were questions from the Commissioners with response:

- Mr. Brodsky: The 82% is not just for positive income but adjusted to take out animals that were brought in for only compassionate euthanasia?
 - Mr. Jamison: Yes, it will take those out, none of what we think is adoptable. We will take out owner surrender for euthanasia.
- Mr. Brodsky: Are you anticipating bringing in more dogs?
 - Mr. Jamison: This is what we have right now and we think we will be able to work with.
- Ms. Timko: Is increased field intake the route that DAS wants to take?
 - Mr. Jamison: The loose dogs are causing many issues and hopefully it will go down.
 - Mr. Brodsky: The hope is doing 19.5 this year with education and spay neuter surge so there isn't a need to do as many in the future.
- Ms. Timko: Do you guys have a plan to do a plan for addressing the loose dog issue, specifically owners that allow their dogs to be loose and those that neglect their animals?
 - Mr. Jamison: This is for the free dogs that are roaming around the city; cruelty and neglect is a different topic.
 - Mr. Brodsky: The long-term here is the CARE Team, which is mostly the education process.
- Ms. Fletes: To clarify, the goal is if an officer gets to an owner, is the dog still impounded?
 - Mr. Jamison: No, if it's our first call the dog would be returned to the owner; if it's a repeat offender and they are not in compliance then the dog will be impounded.
- Ms. Fletes: If the dog is returned in the field, will it include in the 19,500?
 - Mr. Jamison: Yes, we did not physically bring the dog to the shelter but it was impounded.
- Ms. Rodriguez: What would explain for the loose numbers to go down?
 - Ms. Barnes: About a year ago we added the loose owned SR's instead of them all coming in loose so that we can determine loose dog is owned and find the information of the owner, that when we saw more calls being loosed owned.
- Ms. Gubbins: Is there a breakdown based on zip codes?
 - Mr. Rogers: We can have it broken down by zip codes
- Mr. Edison: Has the ASP stop and roll been consistent of intake per ASO?
 - Ms. Barnes: They have been consistent we have open 4 positions on average.
- Mr. Brodsky: Is there an industry standard or formula?

- Mr. Jamison: It is hard to tell, we are trying with animals that are usually euthanized on day four, now with the playgroups it can add to the days.
- Ms. Fletes: Who's going to be doing the Heartworm treatments, funding, and what's the plan for recovery?
 - Mr. Jamison: We have secured funding from our budget, we are going back and forth in giving it to those that are being adopted or rescued.
 - Mr. Rogers: We have \$50k worth of treatments on hand.
- Ms. Fletes: Is there a plan for people to afford preventatives at a reasonable cost?
 - Mr. Jamison: That is something that we are getting to as well.
- Mr. Edison: On Live Release Rate, you're at 81.5% and your target is 82% for the year; are you being conservative with 81.5%?
 - Mr. Jamison: We are trying to find our way because we are holding animals a lot longer.
- Ms. DeVoss: What is the negative 62% for the top rescue partners?
 - Mr. Rogers: It's just the difference between Rockwall Pets and Operation Kindness.
- Mr. Brodsky: Do you track if you pick up a loose dog if it was an adoptable dog from DAS?
 - Mr. Jamison: No, we don't have those capabilities.
- Mr. Brodsky: Why is Operation Kindness so far under their MOU?
 - Mr. Jamison: Their answer was the animals that they could help immediately was to hard to get the out by the tagging system.
- Ms. Rodriguez: If someone call asking where the shelter is, the call will go to 311?
 - Mr. Rogers: Yes, after hours 311 has a better system for this.
- Ms. Rodriguez: Who is making the Kiosk?
 - Mr. Rogers: It may go through Google Forms.
- Mr. Brodsky: How did you pick the animal at large citation to focus on?
 - Mr. Rogers: It's the most prevalent that is written, also failure to quarantine.
- Ms. Steward: Do you have a list of seniors by sip code that received citations?
 - Mr. Rogers: Yes, we can provide that at the next meeting.
- Ms. Fletes: How often are these round ups?
 - Mr. Rogers: This is still ongoing, they are making sure that hit each part of the city.
- Ms. Fletes: What is the average number of citations for one individual?
 - Mr. Rogers: 6 or more
- Ms. Fletes: Have there ever been a warrant given on animal citations?
 - Mr. Rogers: One of the biggest offender has been apprehended.
- Ms. Timko: Can we link this with the CARE Team?
 - Ms. Jamison: Once this is all entered then we will see what we are working with.
- Ms. Fletes: Updates on EAC?
 - Mr. Jamison: The EAC is good and a great option for those that do not come downtown.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): Breakdown of field intake and Request for loose calls and senior citations by zip code.

4. Dangerous Dog Ordinance

Presenter(s): Ann Barnes

Information Only:

- Dog on Human Bite
 - Option 1: Dog goes into quarantine at the shelter, art home, or at a vet and released after quarantine period.
 - Option 2: Quarantine and goes through Dangerous Dog process to be deemed dangerous.
- Dangerous Dog Serious Bodily Injury (SBI)
 - We are solely dealing with the severe injuries.
 - If there is tearing of the muscle and skin.
- Perspective
 - Gibbs: Define the type of leash and length a DD can wear. A person that has a first offense to not put a financial burden on them but the second time you do.
 - Rodriguez: I don't think it would be a good idea to transfer a dog to a person but to a sanctuary.
 - Timko: Concerned about punishing the owner and not only the dog.
 - Brodsky: Proposed to form a taskforce on the dangerous dog process to be chaired by someone on the commission with the City Attorneys and DAS Staff.

The following were questions from the Commissioners with response:

- Mr. Brodsky: Under the State SBI, if a dog bites someone's finger off, it would be euthanized?
 - Mr. Jamison: The ordinance state that it may be ordered to be euthanized but yes it would be.
 - Ms. Barnes: It states very clear that if it is an SBI dog it will not be returned to the owner.
- Mr. Brodsky: How does our Dangerous Dog Ordinance interact with that?
 - Ms. Barnes: It doesn't
- Mr. Brodsky: What would you like to be change?
 - Ms. Jamison: The wording, owning more than one dangerous dog, only letting the dog out for medical reasons, behavioral modifications.
- Mr. McComber: Do you know if any other City's that has a functioning plan?
 - Mr. Jamison: We are working on that as well as what I know from Cleveland.
- Ms. Timko: Can we charge the owner of the dog with criminal charges if the dog causes bodily injury to someone?
 - Ms. Barnes: By state law, we can only charge them if the owner knew the dog was dangerous and currently we have to prove that there is a previous bite or being dangerous cause a SBI.
- Ms. Timko: What is the process if you bring a dog from the field that bite someone and the owner surrenders?
 - Mr. Jamison: We can euthanize and send for rabies testing but we try to gather as much information as we can about the dog.
- Ms. Timko: We have some that are being raised to be a dangerous dog, how do we address those issues?

- Mr. Jamison: That is something we have to get with the legal team.
- Ms. Timko: Are you creating a record to notify the owner of the appeal?
 - Mr. Jamison: a formal letter can be a notification.
 - Ms. Barnes: they would appeal through County court.
- Ms. Timko: What criteria that you use to determine SBI or Dangerous Dog?
 - Mr. Jamison: We do use a checklist to see what fits.
 - Ms. Barnes: For an SBI, we have to run it through the courts with an affidavit.
- Ms. Timko: How do you feel about going back to registration if they are place on the do not adopt to revoke the rights of adoption?
 - Mr. Jamison: Due to being a government agency, we have to be careful on discrimination.
- Ms. Steward: Is there a way we can charge someone a fee if we have to put the dog down if it's dangerous?
 - Mr. Jamison:
- Ms. Fletes: Have you compared your changes to the state law?
 - Mr. Jamison: Yes, we have had our meeting with the City Attorneys.
- Ms. Gubbins: Is there a way to streamline some of the information with petitions?
 - Mr. Jamison: It is hard to do.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): Motioned made for Ryan McComber to be Chair of Dangerous Dog Taskforce.

5. Relationships with Rescue Groups

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky

Information Only:

- We wanted to have better understand of what we have and what path we are going.
- Tags are not approved overnight anymore, we will say when animals are available for rescue.
- We have created a three-category numbering system which are Friendly, Handling and Medical.

The following were questions from the Commissioners with response:

- Ms. DeVoss: Are we will to hold that animals until it gets fixed without a fee?
 - Mr. Jamison: Every animal is getting fixed after the hold to reduce time of stay. We will get that fixed and not charge them.
- Ms. Timko: Are MOU's needed?
 - Mr. Jamison: If they are willing to commit to help.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

6. Public Comments

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

- Don Feare: Dangerous Dog Ordinance
- Unknown: Animal Neglect Concern

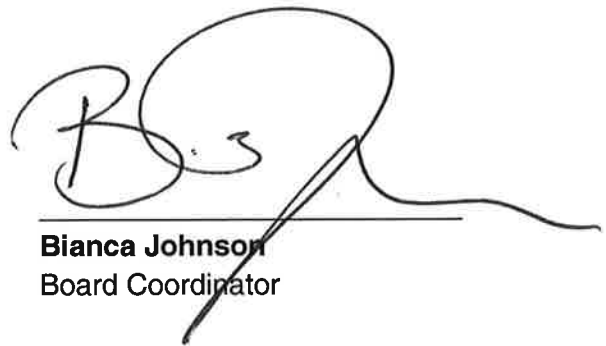
Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

7. Next Meeting

- March 22, 2018



Peter Brodsky
Animal Advisory Commission Chair



Bianca Johnson
Board Coordinator