

Animal Advisory Commission
Retreat

150010

FINAL MINUTES

RECEIVED

Meeting Date: February 19, 2015

Convened: 9:15 a.m.

2015 MAR 27 PM 2:14
Adjourned: 3:54 p.m.

CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

Members Present:

Mary Spencer, Chair
Judi Burnett
Julie Cassidy
Patti Cody
Maeleska Fletes, Vice Chair
Teresa Gubbins
Jody Jones
Bonnie Mathias
Rebecca Poling
Christopher Watts

Members Absent:

Molly DeVoss
Deborah Hicks
Amanda Lawson
Jennifer Roberts

Briefing Presenters

Mary Spencer, *Chair*

Michael Veale

Vana Hammond, *Chief of Community Relations and
Grow South*

Jody Jones, *Senior Program Manager*

Maeleska Fletes, *Acting President of DCAP*

Kris Sweckard, *Director of Code Compliance*

Staff Present:

Kris Sweckard, Jody Jones, Catherine McManus, Rita Hammelman, Yolanda Ramirez

Guests:

JP Bonnelly, Melis Jones, Deborah Rodriguez, Michael Veale

AGENDA:

1. Opening Comments

Presenter(s): Mary Spencer

Information Only:

Ms. Spencer stated that learning steps to staying connected will be the top discussion of the retreat. She introduced Michael Veale who will present the learning steps.

Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

2. "Connections & Collaboration are Critical"

Presenter(s): Michael Veale

Information Only:

Mr. Veale briefed the Commission about the importance of being an effective Commission to the council and community. He recommended using town hall meetings to discuss budget and get district input. During the budget process, think outside the box and stress the top priorities. In the past, Dallas Animal Services has never been a topic for budget discussion. He recommended reaching out to the Public Information Office and review the city's 2 year and future plan. He also suggested getting involved in Crime Watch as police officers

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Commission to identify priorities for budget requests and submit by February 26, 2015. Participate in Boards & Commissions survey. Continue discussions with their council members. Attend meeting on May 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm at the shelter to discuss the status of the budget.

4. New Terms/City Council & AAC

Presenter(s): Mary Spencer

Information Only:

Ms. Spencer presented a document of the “Dallas City Council Races Taking Shape” and “Characteristics of a Good Board Member” to the Commission. She encouraged the Commission to meet the candidates and to recruit new Commission members. The members and guests were divided into two groups and discuss learning ideas for new members. Each shared their proposed ideas to create an Orientation Handbook.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Create the Orientation Handbook for new Commission members and present a draft at the next regular meeting on March 26, 2015.

5. Dallas’ VISTA Program & Grow South Update

Presenter(s): Vana Hammond

Information Only:

Ms. Hammond briefed the Commission about the program which consists of seven specific areas. Selected paid participants will be contracted for a year. The goal is to strengthen the neighborhoods through public relations campaign, better technology, and enforcement.

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

6. City Ordinance Changes/Revisions

Presenter(s): Jody Jones

Information Only:

Ms. Jones briefed the Commission about a proposed amendment to the Animal Noise Ordinance which was presented to the Quality of Life & Environment Council Committee on February 9, 2015. The recommendations are to lower the standard from 15 to 5 continuous minutes in duration, require site inspection upon receipt of third complaint in one calendar month, utilize civil citations as needed, remove outside complaint process for animal noise, and to decrease to one non-related witness. A draft ordinance change will be presented to full Council for consideration on March 25, 2015.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): The Commission was not in favor of this proposed change and they should advise their council members of their concern.