

**Animal Advisory Commission  
Regular Meeting**

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**FINAL MINUTES**

2017 SEP 14 PM 3:40

**Meeting Date:** June 2, 2017**Convened:** 1:34 pm**Adjourned:** 3:10CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS**Members Present:**

Peter Brodsky, Chair  
Maeleska Fletes, Vice Chair  
Christopher Watts  
Molly DeVoss  
Karen Kennedy  
Sandra Luhring  
Hasani Burton  
Ryan McComber  
Judith Burnett  
Patti Cody  
Teresa Gubbins

**Members Absent:**

Pat Rodriguez

**Briefing Presenters:**

Major Barbara Hobbs, Major of Police

**Staff Present:**

Bianca Johnson, Rita Hammelman, Barbara Hobbs, Ann Barnes, Deborah Hughbanks, and Nadia Chandler-Hardy

**Guests:****AGENDA:****1. Call to Order**

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky

Information Only:

- Introduction of Nadia Chandler-Hardy, Chief of Community Services. Ms. Chandler-Hardy oversees Animal Care Services, Human Services, and The Office of Homelessness, W.I.C Office as well as 311 and Community Centers.
- The next meeting is August 10<sup>th</sup>; the tether ordinance is going before Quality of Life on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Greyson feels it is important to hear from the Sub-Committees before that goes to Quality of Life. We will reschedule the meeting to August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**2. Approval of April 27, 2017 Minutes**

**Action Taken Committee Recommendation(s):** A motion was made to approve the minutes as written.

**3. Management Report**

Presenter(s): Major Barbara Hobbs

Information Only:

- Our purpose is to provide the Animal Advisory Commission (AAC) stat information from the field, shelter operations and the care team.

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- In October 2016, ACS began implementing The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) strategic plan recommendations. We have briefed our progress and stats to the AAC.
- As we move forward with enforcement, all citations issued are increasing as we are adding on more ASO's in the field.
- On bite information if the dog is owned loose and seem aggressive, the officers will take precautions to pick up that animal. Owner victim bites are not included in the bite numbers.
- Live Release rate we are at our highest of 81.8%.
- Care Teams stats are houses visited, violations left, citations written, RTO's, Intakes, Pet Resources Given, Volunteers Hours and Spay/Neuter transports.
  - Ms. DeVoss – What is the difference between a violation and a citation?
    - Animal Officers can see a violation and not write a citation. The Care Team is about education, so they will see a violation, educate and give them the resource to correct them and come back to follow up. If the violation has not been corrected then they would give them a citation.
  - Mr. Watts – Why are citations written half of what it was the second quarter?
    - Because we switched communities, we tend to educate before start giving citations.
  - Ms. DeVoss – For volunteers' hours, are we only getting 5 hours a week in the field?
    - The field is different from in the shelter, some people don't feel comfortable doing that so we have a limited number of people that are going in the field as a volunteer.
  - Mr. Burton- Is there anything that you know that will account for the transport of spay/neuter drop off?
    - We are reliant on Spay Neuter Network mobile unit in a community; they have to be in the same community that we are in. If the mobile is in the community, then we will not assist with transport.
  - Ms. Fletes – Are you utilizing the Dallas location?
    - Ms. Barnes – We are transporting to the Dallas location once a week every Wednesday, as well as SPCA every Monday. This will affect our numbers because the CARE Team consists of only four (4) officers.
  - Mr. Burton – Do you believe that you have sufficient resources to transport?
    - Ms. Barnes – Not if you want to continue to see those numbers.
- Additional information has been added to the Departmental Fact Sheet as requested.

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- Field Return to Owner
- Bite Data
  - Loose
  - Loose Owned
  - Owner Confined

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

- Ms. DeVoss – Calls received and citations issued why there is a difference in the numbers?
  - These are calls that are coming from the public, these are also proactive calls that the CARE Team make when they are out in the field.
- Ms. DeVoss – Why is there are difference in the number for registered unaltered dogs and intact permit issued?
  - You have to register your pet for \$30 then you have to apply for the intact permit which is \$100. So, there are people that will register them as intact but will not get the intact animal permit.
- Mr. Watts – When it comes to citations, what type of relationship do we have with the veterinarian community to understand out ordinances to help them help people stay in ordinance?
  - There is an option where if your veterinarian says that it is unhealthy for your pet to be spayed, the vet can write a letter stating that it is unhealthy and that pet can be exempt.
- Mr. Watts – Is there any opportunity for the City of Dallas and the veterinarian community to partner together with the ordinance that we have?
  - We can try to reach out to professional magazine with an ad.
- Ms. Kennedy – Kittens are brought in at 8 to 9 weeks old and are being spayed/neutered, is that healthy for them?
  - At the shelter we do pediatric spay/neuter because the animals cannot leave the shelter unless there is a medical reason for them to leave prior to. They have to be 2 months and/or 2 pounds to be spayed/neutered.
- Mr. Brodsky – What is the status on our vet hiring?
  - Currently, we have three full time vets we are posting an additional ad for 2 more vets. We have been reaching out to the veterinarian community if anyone is interested. We have a good amount of applications to pull.
- Mr. Brodsky – Ideally, how many vets do we need?
  - I would like to have six (6) but five (5) would be great.
- Mr. Brodsky – What else do you need to help the live release rate go up or to stay where it is?
  - We need assisted with the vets on spay/neuter to get the animals out more quickly, more rescue partners that are willing to take in more animals.
  - Ms. DeVoss added since we now have in house puppy and kitten fosters we do need more fosters to help.

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- Mr. Brodsky – Are there any rescue groups that you have your eye on to create a partnership?
  - We are looking for any rescue groups that is willing to help pull. We get rescues that apply weekly, so we are working on that.
- Mr. Watts – Are we still only allowing groups from the DFW area pull from the shelter?
  - We do have some out of state group, most have local fosters and/or have rescue groups that assist them here.
- Ms. Fletes – Are the MOUs done with SPCA and Operation Kindness?
  - Yes, they took effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Ms. Fletes – Can we get numbers to see what they are pulling from the shelter?
  - Yes
- Ms. Fletes – Why have impoundment from the field is much higher?
  - Because of the recommendation from the BGC on picking up loose dogs.
- Ms. Fletes – Is there any talk on how to make that number go down from the CARE Team?
  - Majority of the animals are loose dogs and has no owner, so they are bringing them in as a loose dog as no owner.

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

**4. Update on Search of New Director Process**

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky

Information Only:

- A search firm has interviewed the Chair and Vice Chair for AAC, Quality of Life and staff from the management team. They have come up with a job description and is put on a public website. They are now in the process of looking; hopefully they will have someone by the month of August. It is a national search; there will be internal and external candidates.
  - Mrs. Chandler-Hardy mentioned she has discussed with the City Manager and HR Staff on the option to have community input, such as a meet and greet with the finalist.

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

**5. Discussion of Tethering**

Presenter(s): Peter Brodsky

Information Only:

- We voted to support the staff's recommendation of the ordinance with additional stipulations indicating that a dog will not be in distress and other conditions. At the Quality of Life meeting I recommended that all ordinances be accepted but because there is a lot of community disagreement and discussion about tethering that that be given a little more time. So, at the next Council meeting all ordinance approved should be in effect and tether will be delayed until the Quality of Life meeting in August.

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- A citizen lead committee has been formed and has as a specific goal of crafting a different ordinance to the Quality of Life to be stricter on tethering, if not a complete ban on tethering.
- Tethering Sub-Committee Members
  - Karen Kennedy
  - Sandra Luhring
  - Pat Rodriguez
  - Hasani Burton
  - Maeleska Fletes
    - Mr. Burton suggested that a Chair be appointed for the Tethering Sub-Committee.
    - Ms. Fletes volunteered her service to be Chair of the committee.
      - A motion was made for Chair.
    - Mr. Burton stated that Tethering is already against the city ordinance the issue is the defense of prosecution.
    - Mr. Watts mentioned that we know that we all are against tethering.
    - Ms. Gubbins stated that she just want a plan to be presented to Council for a solution to be resolved.
    - Ms. Kennedy added that the person that is receiving a citation is still:
      - innocent until proven guilty
      - Has the option to discuss it with the person that is issuing a citation.
    - Mr. Brodsky stated that the issue is about how to prioritize, tethering because of the defense of prosecution there is not that many citations that get written.
    - Mr. Burton mentioned that if we go to no tethering, no defense then the ASO will spend most of their time writing citation and overrun with more loose animals. The reality is there is tethering that is going on that is not being addressed because we don't have the resources to do it and other things that are a priority.
    - Major Hobbs stated that we will have to prioritize calls being the most aggressive calls are first such as bites and attack in progress, we do not go out to loose calls we are tracking these calls for put operations teams to go out to the communities with the high levels of loose calls.
    - Mr. Burton stated that it seem as this idea of changing the ordinance that there will be all these calls. The point is there is a big gap in education, so changing the ordinance to non-tethering you still have to have a cattle list to report to 311.
    - Ms. Fletes response is if we do change the tether ordinance to ban tethering there are some people out there that will look at it as black and white and demanding our Field Officers to get out there and get these dogs off of a tether. For those that do not know the ordinance there are outreach groups that are out there educating, so that they know what the laws are and how to care for their animals.

- Ms. Fletes mentioned that in the Quality of Life meeting a question to the City Attorney was asked is tethering against the law? The City Attorney answer that that is not the case, it is allowed tethering under the current law.
- Major Hobbs confirmed. Tethering is allowed under certain conditions and restrictions in the city ordinance.

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

**6. Public Comments**

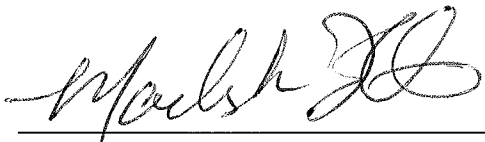
The following citizens stated their full name, address, and raised their concerns:

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

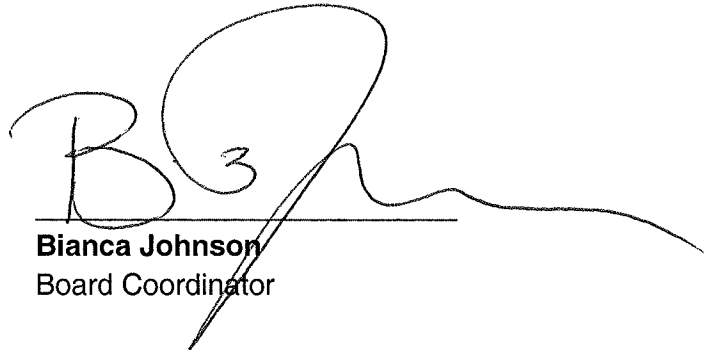
**7. Other Business**

**8. Next Meeting**

- August 4, 2017



**Peter Brodsky**  
Animal Advisory Commission Chair



**Bianca Johnson**  
Board Coordinator