

Animal Shelter Advisory Board Minutes September 4, 2013

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The Animal Shelter Advisory Board of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. in the Training Room of the Bedford Police Department, 2121 L. Don Dodson Drive, on the 4th day of September, 2013, with the following members present:

Les Hawkins	Deputy Police Chief (Staff Liaison)
Mark Bellinghausen	Animal Control Supervisor
Dr. Becky Purchase	Chairman
Karen Killian	Board Members
Sandy Osburn	
Connie Ziegler-Stout	

constituting a quorum.

Vice - Chairman Dawn Orr was absent from the meeting.

Also present:

Michael Boyter	Council Liaison
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(The following items were considered in accordance with the official agenda posted on the 30th day of August, 2013.)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dr. Becky Purchase called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Consider approval of the following Animal Shelter Advisory Board Minutes:**
 - a) July 3, 2013 regular meeting:**

Board Member Sandy Osburn made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2013 board meeting.

Board Member Karen Killian seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by consent.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2. Discussion on Shelter Statistics.**

The May, June and July, 2012, and June and July, 2013 monthly statistic reports were distributed to Board Members for review.

Deputy Chief Les Hawkins informed the Board that part of the variance in this year's statistics versus the previous year is due to changing the criteria for capturing statistics. Instead of only capturing the number of animals coming into the Shelter and the number of animals going out; categories have been broken down to present a more accurate overall picture. The Board surmised that adoptions and transfers are down possibly due to not having as much marketing and computer exposure as in the past and less people fostering this year.

Council Liaison Boyter inquired if it is generally accepted that animal shelters in surrounding cities are receiving more animals this year than in years past. Chairman Dr. Purchase advised that shelters are seeing an increase in animals; the economy is one factor in the past two to three years that has contributed to more pets being relinquished due to financial situations.

Council Liaison Boyter inquired if the Board found the statistical reports helpful. Chairman Dr. Purchase advised that the numbers are helpful when making decisions on how to best help the Shelter. The statistics help identify areas of need, which helps the Board in mobilizing people to increase adoptions without creating additional responsibilities for Shelter staff.

3. Follow up discussion and possible action on Trap, Neuter and Return.

Board Member Killian asked for clarification on the directive from Council Liaison Boyter to Board Member Connie Ziegler-Stout at the last Animal Shelter Advisory Board (Board) meeting regarding the presentation of Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) information to the City Council. Council Liaison Boyter explained that the information will need to be presented to the City Council and they will make the final decision on whether to move forward with TNR. Council Liaison Boyter stated that TNR is a very important issue to many people and the issue is much bigger than the Board. Council Liaison Boyter further advised that in his opinion, the approval of the Board was not needed to go before the City Council.

Board Member Ziegler-Stout expressed that it was her desire to educate the City Council regarding TNR. She stated that she had been advised by a couple of Council Members that the presentation would have more impact if the Animal Shelter Board recommended adopting TNR.

Board Member Ziegler-Stout conducted a PowerPoint presentation on TNR for the benefit of Chairman Dr. Purchase and others who were not present at the last meeting.

Board Member Ziegler-Stout proposed that the Animal Shelter Advisory Board vote to endorse and recommend to the City Council that Bedford adopt an ordinance or policy to endorse TNR and recognize cats that have been through the TNR process so they are not needlessly euthanized. Board Member Ziegler-Stout advised the Board that following the approval of that motion, she would develop a comprehensive briefing to present to the City Council with Board approval. The presentation would be placed on the agenda within the next 60 days. Board Member Ziegler-Stout would like to present the briefing and convey the support of the Board to the City Council. If the City Council agrees to pursue TNR then the details of a workable and comprehensible ordinance and/or policy could be formulated.

Council Liaison Boyter stated that his observation is that the presentation is very helpful, but it needs more work before it is presented to the City Council. He recommended that if the Board is going to endorse TNR at this meeting, a motion should be made to give Board Member Ziegler-Stout authorization to begin research in anticipation of the presentation.

The Board took a vote to endorse and recommend TNR to the City Council.

Ayes: Chairman Dr. Purchase, Board Members Connie Ziegler-Stout, Sandy Osburn

Nays: Board Member Karen Killian

The Board authorized Council Liaison Boyter to go before City Council and inform them that the Board is endorsing TNR and have begun taking steps to make a formal presentation.

The Board authorized a sub committee consisting of Chairman Dr. Purchase and Board Member Ziegler-Stout to bring a presentation to the next Board meeting for approval to present to the City Council.

4. Discussion on Fall Pet Fair.

Animal Control Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen advised that the banner poles have been installed and there will be a banner over Harwood Road to advertise the Pet Fair.

Board Member Killian advised that the Fire Department's Open House is scheduled for the same day. There will be cross advertising at both events and advertising on the Police Department Roller Boards and Old Bedford School.

Council Liaison Boyter stated that he will suggest to the City Council to provide a better presentation on the website for the Pet Fair.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Discussion and possible action regarding adoption events.

Mr. Bellinghausen advised the Shelter will be attending the Marshall Grain adoption event.

Board Member Ziegler-Stout advised that Marshall Grain has a monthly vaccination event that would be a good prospect for the Shelter to attend.

Board Member Killian reminded everyone that if one staff member is attending an adoption event on Saturdays, there are only two staff members left on duty; volunteers are needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Killian motioned to adjourn the meeting and Chairman Dr. Purchase seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.