

**Animal Shelter Advisory Board Minutes July 3, 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 4:00 p.m. in the Training Room of the Bedford Police Department, 2121 L. Don Dodson Drive, on the 3rd day of July, 2013, with the following members present:

Les Hawkins	Deputy Police Chief (Staff Liaison)
Mark Bellinghausen	Animal Control Supervisor
Dawn Orr	Vice-Chairman
Karen Killian	Board Members
Sandy Osburn	
Connie Ziegler-Stout	

constituting a quorum.

Chairman Dr. Becky Purchase 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 28th day of June, 2013.)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairman Dawn Orr called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY BOARD COUNCIL LIAISON**

Deputy Chief Les Hawkins introduced City Council Member Michael Boyter as the new Council Liaison to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board.

Council Liaison Boyter addressed the group and advised the he is honored and excited to work with the Board and to serve in this capacity.

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

- 1. Sheryl Frederick, 709 King Drive, Bedford, Texas – Requested to speak to the Board regarding feral cats.**

Ms. Frederick spoke in support of Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) for feral cats. Ms. Frederick advised the Board that she has been practicing TNR throughout the City of Bedford long before TNR had been defined. Ms. Frederick also advised that other cities such as Arlington, Fort

Worth, Dallas, Irving, and San Antonio recognize TNR. She stated that it is time for Bedford to lead the way and do the right and humane thing by implementing TNR.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **2. Consider approval of the following Animal Shelter Advisory Board Minutes: a) May 1, 2013 regular meeting:**

Vice-Chairman Dawn Orr made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2013 board meeting.

Board Member Connie Ziegler-Stout seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by consent.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **3. Discussion on Shelter Statistics.**

The April and May monthly statistic reports for 2013 were distributed to Board Members for review.

Council Liaison Boyter inquired as to how the Board utilized the statistical information. Vice-Chairman Orr explained that Board Members use the information to gather knowledge and to assist the Shelter with ideas that will help lower the statistics; such as getting citizens more involved, Trap, Neuter and Return, or teaching people about the benefits of spay and neuter.

Council Liaison Boyter stated to the Board that after reviewing the statistics, he feels that the challenge as a group is to find a way to get every animal adopted and to reduce the number of animals euthanized.

Council Liaison Boyter asked the Board to consider creating a work session to discuss creative ideas or to evaluate the Shelter's participation in events.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **4. Discussion and Possible action on Trap, Neuter and Return.**

Council Liaison Boyter inquired as to where the Board was going with "possible action" in regards to TNR. Board Member Ziegler-Stout advised that today's meeting was going to be informational due to a lot of misunderstandings about TNR and then from there the Board could discuss further action.

Council Liaison Boyter advised the Board that from his perspective it is not in the powers and duties of the Animal Shelter Advisory Board to endorse or adopt TNR. He stated that when he reviewed the agenda, he was concerned that the Board was considering taking possible action. Board Member Ziegler-Stout stated that at today's meeting she would just be presenting information. Council Liaison Boyter confirmed with the Board that no action on any issue would take place today. He explained that the role of the Board is Shelter driven and clearly about finding families for the animals. He expressed to the Board that TNR is a much larger scope and will effect larger change than the Board is capable of endorsing. He stated the City Council is the place to make an impact; to get them to come around to what you are seeing and how you feel towards this issue.

Board Member Ziegler-Stout presented information to the Board on why she feels that TNR is the most effective, sensible and humane way to address the feral cat population in Bedford.

Additionally, she hoped to clear up any misunderstandings of what TNR means or entails. She stated that with more communities implementing TNR policies ever day, she feels it would be advantageous for Bedford to look at why our community should be on board with this national trend. Board Member Ziegler-Stout conducted a PowerPoint presentation on TNR. She ended her presentation by stating that she hopes in the future the Board can discuss TNR in an informed way and work together to find solutions to help implement a TNR program.

#### **5. Discussion on Volunteer training.**

Deputy Chief Les Hawkins reported that the first volunteer orientation session was held on Thursday, June 27, with 12 volunteers in attendance. Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that the Shelter would like to get volunteers more involved in offsite adoption events as quickly as possible. Deputy Chief Hawkins informed the Board that volunteers were informed during the orientation that they would be able to work offsite events by themselves after they work at least six offsite events with a staff member, if qualified. Another orientation session will be scheduled in the next month or two.

#### **6. Review of approved shelter fees.**

Deputy Chief Hawkins reported the new fee schedule was approved at the last Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2013. Previous adoption fees were \$60.00. The new fee schedule lowers cat adoptions by \$5.00 to \$55.00. Adoption fees for dogs is on an adjusted scale depending on the size of the dog due to the variance in cost from the veterinary clinic for spay and neuter services. Deputy Chief Hawkins distributed to the Board a comparison sheet of fees for the surrounding cities and the new Bedford fees that were adopted by City Council. He added that the ordinance does allow for lowering of fees for special events with the approval of the Police Chief.

#### **7. Confirm Date for the fall 2013 Pet Fair.**

Animal Control Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen stated the date for the 2013 Fall Pet Fair has been set for Saturday, October 12.

Deputy Chief Hawkins advised that the City has erected poles on Harwood and Forest Ridge so the Pet Fair banner will be able to be displayed.

#### **8. Confirm Dates of September 4, 2013 and November 6, 2013 for next Regular Meetings with start time of 4:30 p.m.**

The Board approved the two next Regular Meeting dates of the Animal Shelter Advisory Board for September 4, 2013, and November 6, 2013, with at start time of 4:30 p.m for each meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chairman Orr motioned to adjourn the meeting and Board Member Karen Killian seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.