

Memphis Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Working Session July 14, 2011

In attendance: In attendance: Dr. Stephen Tower, Chairman; Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary; Matthew Pepper shelter administrator; John Cox, board member; Don Siemer, board member; Dr. Jen Clay, board member, La Sonya Hall, Deputy Director Public Services and Neighborhoods; Jill Madajczyk, City Attorney's Office

The session was called to order by Dr. Tower.

The June minutes were corrected.

Motion to approve the June minutes by Don Siemer, second by John Cox

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made that the notes from the May meeting be approved as narrative notes was made by Dr. Jen Clay, seconded by John Cox.

Motion passed unanimously.

Matthew Pepper announced that positions were being posted for:

- Second person in veterinary position

- 2 additional technicians

- 2 field officer

The shelter now has 12 technicians, 1 senior technician, 19 Officers, a field supervisor, shelter supervisor, an operations manager, and one veterinarian.

The shelter is now 650 call behind which is being reduced every week.

In June there was a 5% increase in intakes. June is traditionally a large intake month.

- 38% of the in-take are owner surrender.

Don Siemer asked for a legal description of the duties of the shelter. Is adoption a requirement?

Matt Pepper said that positive outcomes are up 20% this year. Adoption figures tend to shadow news stories. Good stories increase adoption; bad news tends to decrease adoptions. Adoptions so far this year are at 1703, 3,000 would be a good goal.

The MAS Board email account was discussed.

Matt Pepper told about the \$40.00 adoption fees until the shelter moves. This includes all regular vetting.

Don Siemer asked if the Health Department or anyone inspected rescue to make sure where the dogs and cats are going. The Pet Placement Partner program was explained.

The possibility of the city implementing a city license for animals in addition to the rabies license was discussed. This could be maintained through the Clerk's Office. There are companies that issue the licenses and do all the bookkeeping necessary. Cost is not known.

A hand out was given about changing the ordinance about bonding requirement for animals being held at the shelter.

A motion was made by John Cox for the Board to recommend the change to Janet Hooks.

Motion was seconded by Don Siemer. The motion passed.

Jill Madajczyk will send everyone an amended copy of the ordinance proposal presented at the meeting. A copy of this attached to the minutes.

The City Attorney has suggested we have a public vote about having monthly work sessions privately and meeting quarterly open to the public.

Motion was made to have this meeting by Don Siemer

Seconded by John Cox

Motion passed.

Matt Pepper said that a realistic move to the shelter is mid-September as there are some serious issues being fixed that will require a little time

Dr. Tower asked about the pre-euthanasia sedation used currently. Dr. Tower, Dr. Clay and Dr. Coleman will get together to review.

Dr. Tower also asked about compassion fatigue, and care of the employees. Matt Pepper said a mandatory class is held for all employees and individual help is available for any employee who requests it.

New Business:

John Cox asked about the wisdom of using Second Chance employees.

John Cox asked about upgrading the training and education of Animal Control Officers. He suggested 12 month probation periods instead of 6 months. Three tiers were also suggested for Officers and Technicians.

A motion was made by John Cox and seconded by Don Siemer that these items be implemented. After discussion it was decided that Mr. Cox would meet with Human Resources, and the vote put on hold until after that meeting.

Jeanne Chancellor announced that Friends of the Memphis Animal Shelter has received a grant from FedEx to start a Trap/Neuter/Release program in conjunction with Memphis Animal Services to help reduce the population of feral cats in Memphis. This will help reduce the numbers of cats entering the shelter, and reduce the numbers of these cats over time.

Handouts of the success of using Facebook as a source for finding homes was given out as well as the latest results of Petfinder.com. The Petfinder account had been hacked and the password changed and it took several weeks to get that matter resolved, but it being rebuild now.

LaSonya Hall announced that the city wanted to have a volunteer appreciation event, and it was discussed an adoption event along with the celebration would be a nice idea.

John Cox made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Dr. Jen Clay

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary