

Memphis Animal Shelter Advisory Board
Public Meeting
December 14, 2011

Those present: Dr. Stephen Tower, Dr. Jennifer Clay, John Cox, Jeanne Chancellor, Jill Madajczyk, Chelton Beamon, Director Janet Hooks, Deputy Director Dr. LaSonya Hall

The minutes from the November meeting were presented and motion was made by John Cox to accept the minutes, seconded by Jeanne Chancellor. The minutes were accepted.

The move of the animals to the new shelter was completed in one day. Thanks to the Humane Society of the United States bringing in a semi-truck from Nashville that is able to move over 60 animals at a time. The Humane Society also sent drivers and workers to help with handling the animals moved in this truck. The animal control trucks also made several trips each helping move the animals. This was a huge job that went like clock work thanks to all the preparation. The animals were all safely in their new cages at the end of the day.

Chelton Beamon presented the numbers for October and November:

October: Intake 1209
Euthanasia 765
Adoptions/transfers 207
Return to owner: 53

November: Intake 749
Euthanasia 567
91 adoptions
37 transfers
34 return to owner
The November numbers reflect the time the shelter had to be closed due to the move.

Dr. Tower asked if intakes can be tracked to zip codes. It would be helpful if the zip codes could be added to the intake reports for the city and county.

How many animals are currently unaccounted for? What measures have been put in place to correct? Once euthanized what is the time lag before the records are updated and what are the steps? At the next meeting we would like to have a report of how many animals have not been tracked properly.

Some of the unaccounted for animals have resulted from animals being taken to the emergency vet and being euthanized there. What are the numbers of animals being taken to emergency vets?

Jill Madajczyk gave a report on the legal proceedings going on concerning animal ordinances. The new dangerous/vicious dog ordinance has been approved at the third reading and will go into effect Tuesday after the minutes approving the ordinance are approved.

The local dog fighting ordinances mirror the state ordinances.

The ordinance to allow the adoption rather than auction of livestock will have the 3rd reading on December 20th, and take effect after the approval of the minutes of the December 20th meeting.

The ordinance is up for the second reading that will increase fees for dangerous/vicious animals being held for whatever reason at the animal shelter. The fees for dangerous vicious hearing animals and animals being held for bite quarantine will increase to \$68.00 per day. This is based on the fee the City charges the county as the cost of holding county animals. Within 10 days of impoundment the owner must prepay 30 days worth of boarding or the animal immediately becomes property of the city.

Boarding fees for animals running at large will be increased to \$15.00 per day rather than the current \$7.00 a day. This will help the city recoup some of the actual cost of housing the animals.

An ordinance has been proposed to allow the Memphis Shelby County Humane Society to write dangerous/vicious citations. These animals will be housed at the Memphis Shelby County Humane Society rather than Memphis Animal Services.

There is a request for \$10,000 in the 2013 budget which will provide GPS systems in 15 animals control vehicles. This request will go in the budget request that will be prepared in April 2012.

Director Hooks is requesting additional staffing. 2 ACOs will be in the request along with Animal Care technicians. Help is needed on the evening shift to help rotate animals from aco holding to stray or stray healthy hold, and from stray/healthy hold to the adoption areas.

Starting the first of January Dr. David Hannon will be at the shelter as the second full time vet. This should help alleviate some of the clinic overload.

Field Office operations: There is also a need for more officers. There currently is not one officer assigned to each council district due to not enough officers. Gps will help with efficiency, but more officers are needed.

When these items come before council, the board members will be happy to attend the meetings in support of the shelter and its needs.

We can contact the budget chairman on the City Council in support of further funding for the shelter, and showing up at meeting in support of the funding is a good idea.

The comparison of vans versus trucks for the officers was discussed. The vans offer climate control for the animals so are much safer for the animals. 2 new vans are in the budget which is funded through General Services Division.

The need for new signage for the new shelter was discussed. The shelter currently does not appear correctly on gps systems due to the new streets. Signage is needed off Appling Road such as the signage that is present for the inspection station.

The state denied a request for signage on the interstate.

Dr. Jen Clay reported that she has been working with Kate on a marketing strategy for the shelter, and Kate will make a presentation at the January work session.

Anne Marie Eason will hold a "You have adopted a dog, now what" class at the shelter January 14th from 11 - 12 to help adopters with basic training and animal care. The class is open to anyone.

In January the Humane Society of the United States will be holding animal handling and training in cleaning classes at the shelter for the employees.

There will be ongoing HSUS seminars available for the employees.

Dr. Clay suggested that positive re-enforcement seminars would be good for the staff.

Dr. LaSonya Hall brought copies of the newsletters being produced that highlight what is going on at the shelter.

The Rotary Club Report was reviewed by the board.

The animal census needs to be more accurate.

There need to be programs with an emphasis on education.

Much of the report deals with claims that are unsubstantiated.

Dr. Tower suggested that the Rotary Club could be asked for funding for education programs that they feel are so important.

Janet Hooks is looking at a ways to fund NACA training classes for officers. It costs \$425.00 plus travel expenses to send one officer. What is the cost of having them come to us? Maybe other shelters could have their officers attend to help defray the cost.

In 2012 there will be more training for the Chameleon software.

John Cox stressed areas of concern in the Rotary Club Report of the unsubstantiated claims of ties of employees to dog fighting. It is hard to maintain a good work force with negative claims such as this when they have no proof other than hearsay. This is an insult to the employees who have no ties that are suggested. This makes it very hard to hire a new administrator, who may have ties to an agenda outside the shelter.

Janet Hooks reported that there have been 38 applications for the director position, and a handful meet the basic requirements.

The RFP is being released tomorrow. There are 2 facets of it. One would turn over the management of the shelter to another entity to manage the shelter, and the other would require the lease of the entire operation which would essentially remove the shelter operation from the city. There will be some city control maintained, but essentially someone else would run the operation.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is 2:00 pm on February 17th. All proposals will have to follow all city ordinances.

The meeting was opened to the public.

A motion was made to adjourn by John Cox and seconded by Jeanne Chancellor

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary