

City of San Antonio



Animal Care Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 5:55 PM
4710 State Hwy 151, San Antonio, TX 78227

I. Call to Order:

Board Chair Braeutigam called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Amin Tohmaz (Mayor), Lorena Havill (Dist. 2), George Garcia (Dist. 3), Rita Braeutigam - Chair (Dist. 4), Karen Speer - Secretary (Dist. 5), Kathleen Davis (Dist. 6), Valerie Moore (Dist. 7), Katie Jarl (Dist. 8), Susan Beldon (Dist. 9), Sallie Scott (Dist. 10)

Ex-Officio Member: Jon Gary, David McCary

Absent: Charlene Ducote (Dist. 1),

Ex-Officio Members: Dr. Marilyn Gotbeter

Board Member Ducote (Dist. 1) arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Ex-Officio Member Gotbeter arrived at 6:01 p.m.

III. Chair's Statement

IV. Point of Personal Privilege

Board Chair Braeutigam took a point of personal privilege to allow Ex-Officio Member and Assistant City Manager, David McCary to take the floor.

Mr. McCary gave an introduction and welcome to the new ACS Director, Jon Gary. After which Board Chair Braeutigam gave the floor to each Board Member as an opportunity to introduce themselves to Mr. Gary.

V. Public Comment

- a. Robert Ramos of District 3 provided some highlights regarding the Spay/Neuter Ambassador Program. In reference to an ACS informational handout regarding Chapter 5 changes, Mr. Ramos had questions and concerns about the enforcement of these new changes. Mr. Ramos also recommended ACS and the community working together to address illegal puppy sellers.
- b. Angelia Tate of District 4 provided an overview of her animal welfare background. Ms. Tate mentioned concerns regarding animal cruelty on and around Somerset Road. She discussed roadside sales and that more efforts need to be made in District 4.

- c. Emily Joy Garza of District 9 welcomed the new ACS Director, Jon Gary, and then read a letter addressed to the ACS Director.
- d. Maryanne Rivas gave her time to Emily Joy Garza.
- e. Danah Zapata provided an overview of her background in education and urged ACS to implement an education program.
- f. Joyce Risley gave her time to Angelia Tate.
- g. Rebecca Harriman gave her time to Amy Oakley.
- h. Amy Oakley of District 1 provided an overview of the San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition as well as the organization’s partnership with ACS. Ms. Oakley provided a statistical overview of some of the key programs and services offered by the San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition.

VI. Consent Agenda:

- 1. Approval of the Minutes from the ACS Advisory Board Meeting on November 20, 2024
- 2. Approval of ACS Advisory Board Statistical Reports
- 3. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report
- 4. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board Facility Inspections for January 2025

Board Member Havill pulled Item 3, ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report.

Board Member Ducote pulled Item 4, ACS Advisory Board Facility Inspections for January 2025.

Motion: Board Member Davis moved to approve Items 1 and 2 of the Consent Agenda.
Board Member Moore seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Tohmaz, Ducote, Havill, Garcia, Braeutigam, Speer, Davis, Moore, Jarl, Beldon, Scott

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Action: **MOTION PASSED WITH 11 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 0 ABSENT.**

VII. Items for Individual Consideration:

- 5. **ACS Advisory Board Facility Inspections for January 2025.**

Board Member Ducote wanted to raise concerns about equipment used in the City’s spay/neuter clinics that are operated by partner organizations. She

expressed that providing better equipment and more suitable facilities would entice additional partners as well as better care for existing partners.

Motion: Board Member Tohmaz moved to approve Items 4 of the Consent Agenda.

Board Member Davis seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Tohmaz, Ducote, Havill, Garcia, Braeutigam, Speer, Davis, Moore, Jarl, Beldon, Scott

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Action: **MOTION PASSED WITH 11 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 0 ABSENT.**

6. ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report.

Board Member Havill wanted to know if there were reasons why contract numbers for San Antonio Humane Society (SAHS) and K9s for Warriors were below their target values.

Assistant to the Director, Shannon Oster-Gabrielson explained that SAHS individually was currently under, though this might change as more numbers get submitted. However, spay-neuter targets as a whole across all partners were exceeding goals. She explained that consideration would be given to right-size partner budgets in favor of performing more surgeries.

The City Attorney's Office stated that K9s for Warriors contracts could not be discussed at this time.

Motion: Board Member Davis moved to approve Item 3 of the Consent Agenda.

Board Member Tohmaz seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Tohmaz, Ducote, Havill, Garcia, Braeutigam, Speer, Davis, Moore, Jarl, Beldon, Scott

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Action: MOTION PASSED WITH 11 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 0 ABSENT.

7. Briefing on Chapter 5 Code updates.

ACS Assistant Director, Brad Davenport provided a briefing on recent changes to Chapter 5 code. He mentioned there would be increased fines for repeat offenders and allowing ACS to sterilize owned animals prior to owners reclaiming their pet.

Assistant Director Davenport also discussed that when citizens file a Dangerous Dog Affidavit, they will now have the option to use a pseudonym so that the affidavit can be filed anonymously.

8. Briefing on ACS Operations.

ACS Chief Operations Officer, Bethany Colonnese gave an operational overview of two key divisions within the ACS department, the Placement division and the Shelter division.

Chief Operations Officer Colonnese provided the organizational structure of each division as well as their key functions both with serving animals in ACS' care as well as serving citizens of San Antonio.

9. Briefing on ACS Events.

ACS Assistant to the Director, Shannon Oster-Gabrielson briefed on ACS events. This included a quick highlight of the recent Home for the Howlidays event that was held at ACS, as well as an overview of a recent grassroots community block-walk in Loma Park.

VIII. Director's Report

Mike Shannon recapped the recent ACSAB performance report with the Board.

Shannon discussed a recent puppy sale sting that was conducted in December 2024 that resulted in 24 animal impounds and 21 criminal citations.

Shannon continued the Director's Report with a quick look at two additional spay/neuter community clinics that would be opening soon. One clinic will open in Las Palmas and the other will be in Denver Heights.

Shannon concluded the Director's Report by providing an overview of upcoming City Council items as they relate to ACS.

IX. Determination of Next Meeting Date

The next ACS Advisory Board meeting was scheduled for March 19, 2025.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

APPROVED

Rita Braeutigam, Chair
Animal Care Services Advisory Board
City of San Antonio