

# City of San Antonio



## Animal Care Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:55 PM  
4710 State Hwy 151, San Antonio, TX 78227

### I. Call to Order:

Board Chair Braeutigam called the meeting to order at 5:56 p.m.

### II. Roll Call:

**Present:** Amin Tohmaz (Mayor), Charlene Ducote (Dist. 1), 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), Susan Beldon – Vice Chair (Dist. 9), Sallie Scott (Dist. 10)  
Ex-Officio Member: Shannon Sims

**Absent:** Katie Jarl (Dist. 8),  
Ex-Officio Members: Dr. Marilyn Gotbeter, David McCary, Shannon Sims

*Ex-Officio Member McCary arrived at 6:11pm*

*Ex-Officio Member Gotbeter arrived at 6:22pm*

### III. Chair's Statement

### IV. Director's Report

ACS Assistant Director, Brad Davenport, discussed upcoming ACS events to include the following:

1. ACS' first "Paw"-changa event to be held at ACS. The event is aimed at providing the community with a fun and exciting day at ACS, complete with vendors, food trucks, and activities.
2. Community food distribution event put together through a partnership between ACS, Chewy, and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

### V. Public Comment

- a. Bill White of District 3 discussed materials being made available for public awareness. He stated that San Antonio's animal welfare problems are an "all-hands on deck" situation. He encouraged everyone to ask their elected officials to speak up on these topics.
- b. Vicki Steerman of District 7 read an e-mail to City Manager, Erik Walsh, regarding hiring for the new ACS Director. She emphasized the importance of being familiar

with the culture and community that ACS operates in, and how animals are currently viewed by residents within the community. She discussed issues with State laws as it relates to animal ownership and how it causes issues for ACS within the legal system. She mentioned her frustrations with San Antonio Municipal Courts and how certain dangerous dog cases are handled, as well as discrepancies between fines issued and fines collected.

- c. Jackie Fonseca of District 1 discussed an increase of roaming dogs in her district due to recent weather. She discussed that she observed another citizen dumping a dog at that by the time ACS showed up, the dog had gone missing. She talked about how education is needed in the community. She asked ACS to stop with euthanasia and to partner-up with more rescues and transports.
- d. John Bachman of District 3 urged the ACS Advisory Board to take more interest in overseeing ACS operations. He discussed that almost all partners on the ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report are not meeting their goals. He discussed statistical analysis and that while adoption numbers are up, they're not good enough to meet the annual goals.

## **VI. Consent Agenda:**

- 1. Approval of the Minutes from the ACS Advisory Board Meeting on January 17, 2024
- 2. Approval of ACS Advisory Board Statistical Reports for January and February 2024
- 3. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report
- 4. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board Facility Inspections for March 2024

*Board Member Garcia pulled Item 2, ACS Advisory Board Statistical Reports for January and February 2024, and Item 3, ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report.*

**Motion:** Board Member Tohmaz moved to approve Items 1 and 4 on the Consent Agenda.  
Board Member Moore seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Jarl

**Action:** **MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 1 ABSENT.**

## **VII. Items for Individual Consideration**

### **5. ACS Advisory Board Statistical Reports for January and February 2024.**

Board Member Garcia ask about whether ACS could say there has been a change in the number of stray/roaming animals because of actions taken by ACS. Board Member Garcia also asked if on the upcoming Roaming Dog Survey, if ACS would be noting how many of the dogs are spayed/neutered.

Board Member Havill suggested including on the Statistical Reports that ACS show the overall goal for the year and how the current metrics compare to the goal, in addition to showing the current metrics compared to historical averages.

**Motion:** Board Member Moore moved to approve the ACS Advisory Board Statistical Reports for January and February 2024.  
Board Member Davis seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Jarl

**Action:** **MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 1 ABSENT.**

## **6. ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report.**

Board Member Garcia no longer a question regarding this Agenda item.

Board Member Ducote asked what ACS can do (with regards to contract compliance) if a rescue partner continues to underperform.

Board Member Havill discussed concerns about the underperformance of partner contracts and wanted to know about ACS implementing more accurate contracts.

**Motion:** Board Secretary Speer moved to approve the ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance report corrected.  
Board Member Scott seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Jarl

**Action: MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 1 ABSENT.**

## **7. A Briefing to the Public Safety Committee.**

ACS Assistant to the Director, Shannon Oster-Gabrielson, provided a brief on the presentation that was planned for the Public Safety Committee meeting on March 19, 2024. Oster-Gabrielson categorized each topic in accordance with the 5 Focus Areas of ACS' new Strategic Plan.

### **Focus Area 1 – Support a Safe Community for People in Their Neighborhoods.**

Oster-Gabrielson discussed the following areas of interest:

1. Improve first response rate to critical calls
2. Conduct an unrestrained dog survey
3. Enhance bites and dangerous investigations
4. Add two new community spay/neuter clinics

### **Focus Area 2 – Protect the Safety and Humane Treatment of Pets**

Oster-Gabrielson discussed the following areas of interest:

1. Increase animal wellness clinic events
2. Develop a community standard of care for pets

### **Focus Area 3 – Support the Placement of Pets for Life**

Oster-Gabrielson discussed the following areas of interest:

1. Enhance on-campus adoptions
2. Increase rescue partner incentive

### **Focus Area 4 – Foster Positive Connection with Our Community**

Oster-Gabrielson discussed the following areas of interest:

1. Marketing
2. Placement and networking
3. Spanish language accessibility
4. Neighborhood-based community engagement

### **Focus Area 5 – Champion a Healthy and Thriving Workforce**

Oster-Gabrielson discussed the following areas of interest:

1. Enhancing staff support

## **8. A Briefing on the ACS Customer Service Division.**

ACS Assistant Director, Brad Davenport, provided a brief and overview of the recently implemented Customer Service division.

Davenport began the brief discussing the historical timeline of the division, from approval to implementation. He continued the brief by providing an overview of the call-volume and peak days/hours when calls are received.

Davenport concluded the brief by discussing the more common reasons that citizens are calling ACS, such as checking the status of a 3-1-1 call, information on adoptions or low-cost resources, the owner surrender process, lost/found pets, and calls related to the Field division operations.

## **VIII. Determination of Next Meeting Date**

The next ACS Advisory Board meeting was scheduled for May 15, 2024.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

**APPROVED**

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