

# City of San Antonio



## Animal Care Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 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 6:08 p.m.

### II. Roll Call:

**Present:** George Garcia (Dist. 3), Rita Braeutigam - Chair (Dist. 4), Karen Speer - Secretary (Dist. 5), Kathleen Davis (Dist. 6), Susan Beldon (Dist. 9), Sallie Scott (Dist. 10)

Ex-Officio Member: Michael Shannon, Dr. Marilyn Gotbeter

**Absent:** Amin Tohmaz (Mayor), Charlene Ducote (Dist. 1), Lorena Havill (Dist. 2), Valerie Moore (Dist. 7), Katie Jarl (Dist. 8)

Ex-Officio Members: David McCary

*Board Member Ducote (Dist. 1) arrived at 6:13 p.m.*

*Ex-Officio Member McCary arrived at 6:16 p.m.*

### III. Chair's Statement

### IV. Public Comment

- a. Robert Ramos of District 3 received additional time from Mary Anne Rivas. Mr. Ramos recognized community members and partners for contributions to the ACS Ambassador Program. He discussed concerns about the lack of community awareness regarding services offered by ACS and he proposed solutions on how to improve community awareness. He also discussed wanting community members and ACS Board Members to meet to discuss solutions and feedback regarding other concerns.
- b. Kirstin Hickell (outside City limits) mentioned how she and other community members go to the Mission Flea Market to raise awareness about free and low-cost spay and neuter services. Ms. Hickell expressed frustrations about the breakdown of communication between ACS and the community regarding available City services.
- c. Danah Zapata (District unknown) discussed her experiences educating children on responsible pet ownership. Ms. Zapata expressed concerns about ACS' education program for elementary schools.
- d. John Atwood of District 6 discussed the public losing respect for the City, ACS, and animals. Mr. Atwood stated he wants to make sure that violators in the community are held accountable.

- e. John Bachman from District 3 provided a handout to ACSAB members. Mr. Bachman expressed concerns about ACS Placement metrics that were not at their target goals and the impact that has on capacity euthanasia. He also discussed concerns about spay/neuter metrics.
- f. Rebecca Harriman gave her time to Amy Oakley.
- g. Amy Oakley from District 1 received additional time from Rebecca Harriman. Ms. Oakley of the Feral Cat Coalition provided an overview of her animal welfare background. She expressed concern that despite the Feral Cat Coalition's reach throughout the community, many residents are not aware of the services they offer. Ms. Oakley gave an overview of Feral Cat Coalition programs and services available to the public.
- h. Mary Anne Rivas gave her time to Robert Ramos.

**V. Consent Agenda:**

- 1. Approval of the Minutes from the ACS Advisory Board Meeting on July 17, 2024
- 2. Approval of the Minutes from the ACS Advisory Board Meeting on October 2, 2024
- 3. Approval of ACS Advisory Board Statistical Reports for July, August, and September 2024
- 4. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report
- 5. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board Facility Inspections for November 2024
- 6. Approval of the ACSAB FY 2025 Facility Inspection Schedule

*Board Member Garcia pulled Item 4, ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report.*

*Board Member Scott pulled Item 5, ACS Advisory Board Facility Inspections for November 2024.*

**Motion:** Board Member Davis moved to approve Items 1, 2, 3, and 6 of the Consent Agenda.  
Board Member Speer seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Tohmaz, Havill, Moore, Jarl

**Action:** **MOTION PASSED WITH 7 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 4 ABSENT.**

**VI. Items for Individual Consideration:**

**7. ACS Advisory Board Facility Inspections for November 2024.**

Board Member Scott wanted to provide clarification that the pictures included with Item 5 of the Consent Agenda were pictures taken during Board Member Scott's inspection of the Brackenridge Facilities.

**Motion:** Board Member Davis moved to approve Items 5 of the Consent Agenda.  
Board Member Ducote seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Tohmaz, Havill, Moore, Jarl

**Action:** **MOTION PASSED WITH 7 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 4 ABSENT.**

**8. ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report.**

Board Member Garcia requested data related to resident participation in free spay/neuter services by zip code.

**Motion:** Board Member Davis moved to approve Items 4 of the Consent Agenda.  
Board Member Ducote seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Tohmaz, Havill, Moore, Jarl

**Action:** **MOTION PASSED WITH 7 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 4 ABSENT.**

9. **Briefing on ACS Field Division.**

ACS Assistant Director, Brad Davenport, provided a briefing on ACS Field Operations. The brief included an overview of hiring and work schedules, first response and critical calls, dispatch, and special investigations. He also discussed policy changes regarding free of restraint and bite violations as well as changes to dangerous dog investigations and the process for filing affidavits. Davenport mentioned changes to sterilization orders which include increased efforts by Officers to follow-up on those sterilization orders.

10. **Briefing on Dogtober Fall Event.**

ACS Community Engagement Manager, Claudia Balarin, provided a briefing on ACS' Dogtober Fall Event. Balarin gave an overview of the event's activities as well as resulting placement metrics. ACS presented ACSAB member and Friends of Animal Care Services', Sallie Scott, with an award for the contribution of Friends of Animal Care Services that helped make Dogtober possible.

11. **ACSAB Officer Nominations and Elections.**

ACS Interim Director, Michael Shannon, facilitated the nominations of ACS Advisory Board Officer elections for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

**Motion:** Board Member Speer moved to nominate Rita Braeutigam for Chair.  
Board Member Garcia seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Tohmaz, Havill, Moore, Jarl

**Action:** **MOTION PASSED WITH 7 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 4 ABSENT.**

**Motion:** Board Member Braeutigam moved to nominate Susan Beldon for Vice-Chair.  
Board Member Davis seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Tohmaz, Havill, Moore, Jarl

**Action: MOTION PASSED WITH 7 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 4 ABSENT.**

**Motion:** Board Member Beldon moved to nominate Karen Speer for Secretary. Board Member Davis seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Tohmaz, Havill, Moore, Jarl

**Action: MOTION PASSED WITH 7 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 4 ABSENT.**

## **VII. Director's Report**

ACS Interim Director, Mike Shannon, provided an overview of a recent drive-through pet vaccination and microchip event held at ACS in partnership with Pet Shotz, Pre-K 4SA, City Council District 6, and Petco Love. Shannon mentioned more adoption events, Home for the Howlidays and Pawchanga, as well as another vaccination event would be upcoming.

Shannon went over a new proposed Advisory Board statistic report with Board members. The report would consolidate multiple existing ACSAB reports while also providing a more detailed overview of important ACS performance measures.

He provided an overview of upcoming City Council items as they relate to ACS.

Shannon concluded the Director's Report with a discussion about proposed changes to the City's Chapter 5 code, which includes increased fines for repeat roaming dog violations. Other changes included a pseudonym program for dangerous dog affidavits and sterilization of owned animals being reclaimed from ACS.

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

The next ACS Advisory Board meeting was scheduled for January 15, 2025.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

**APPROVED**

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