

City of San Antonio



Animal Care Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 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: 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 (Dist. 9), Sallie Scott (Dist. 10)
Ex-Officio Member: Shannon Sims

Absent: Dist.1 (VACANT), Amin Tohmaz (Mayor), Katie Jarl (Dist. 8),
Ex-Officio Members: Dr. Marilyn Gotbeter, David McCary

Board Member Tohmaz (Mayor) arrived at 6:15pm

Ex-Officio Member Gotbeter arrived at 6:30pm

Ex-Officio Member McCary arrived at 6:31pm

III. Chair's Statement

IV. Director's Report

Animal Care Services Director, Shannon Sims, provided an overview up upcoming schedule changes for ACS Animal Care Officers in order to better address response times during the five highest operational tempo days of the week. Sims continued his report and talked about improving the staffing numbers for other ACS divisions as well as marketing budgets to improve community visibility and outreach. Finally, Sims talked about getting the community involved to ensure success of ACS initiatives such as through partner efforts with animal welfare advocates and improving impactful volunteer opportunities at ACS.

V. Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes from the ACS Advisory Board Meeting on May 17, 2023
2. Approval of ACS Advisory Board Statistical Reports for May & June 2023
3. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report
4. Approval of ACS FY 2023 Third Quarter Report
5. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board Facility Inspections

Motion: Board Member Moore moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
Board Member Davis seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dist. 1 (VACANT), Tohmaz, Jarl

Action: **MOTION PASSED WITH 8 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 3 ABSENT.**

VI. Items for Individual Consideration

6. A Briefing on Updates to ACS Operations.

ACS Director, Shannon Sims, presented an analysis of ACS Calls for Service. He discussed the priority levels of Calls for Service as well as their FY 2019 (pre-COVID) totals and current FY 2023 (10/01/2022-06/30/2023) totals. Sims continued with a discussion of some common Calls for Service categories such as Trapped/Confined, Injured, and Aggressive calls.

Sims ended the briefing with an update that ACS operation hours are returning to opening at 11:00am on Monday-Friday. He stated that the ACS Vet Clinic will be expanding surgery days for ACS animals to include Wednesday. Sims concluded the briefing with an update that ACS' new play yards were almost complete and available for public use.

7. A Briefing on ACS Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Development.

ACS Assistant to the Director, Shannon Oster-Gabrielson, provided a briefing on updates to the development of ACS' Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. She provided key dates for the overall budget development process and how ACS determined its budget priorities for FY 2024 based off ACS' new Strategic Plan. She concluded her briefing with upcoming dates and locations for Community Budget meetings.

6. A Briefing on the ACS Marketing Campaign.

ACS Public Information Manager, Lisa Norwood, presented a brief on updates to ACS' marketing efforts. She discussed the current focus being on the dangers of

roaming dogs while upcoming marketing campaigns may look to focus on adopting or fostering a pet. She provided an overview of the various media outlets being used and noted this include over 1,000 paid advertisements. She ended her brief with an English and Spanish version of ACS' upcoming television commercial that will be aired on KSAT and Univision.

VII. Public Comment

- a. Pam Gould discussed her personal experience as an ACS foster. She stated that ACS needs to improve transparency and be honest about medical symptoms after she unknowingly fostered a dog that had distemper.
- b. Hyla McGowan gave her time to Missy Brown.
- c. Missy Brown discussed her personal experience fostering a dog with a rescue group. She stated that she could not get help from other groups when the dog became critically ill. She emphasized that fosters should not be responsible when trying to get help and are unable to get help from the rescue group or other organizations.
- d. Lisa Ralston stated there are not enough agencies to support the needs in this community. She discussed social media sites allowing animal sales.
- e. Jacqueline Fonseca discussed her personal experience moderating a social media platform that has animal sales. She stated the need for structure and posed the question about how to handle people advertising a desire to breed their dogs.
- f. Susie Esquivel gave her time to Jenna Loos.
- g. Donna Bodnar gave her time to Jenna Loos.
- h. Jenna Loos discussed concerns about ACS housing sick and diseased animals adjacent to healthy, adoptable pets. She discussed issues with pet sellers, backyard breeding, and an overall lack of ACS transparency. She recommended opening another public-access facility. She recommended alternatives to help make enforcement easier in the community.
- i. Eliza Guerra discussed a personal experience with helping her friends that had found a roaming dog that ultimately belonged to Animal Defense League. She assisted with getting the dog spayed and went on to discuss the need for more affordable medical/spay/neuter options for the community.
- j. Barbara Mapes discussed the need for mobile spay and neuter options as well as low-cost mobile options and services for disabled persons.
- k. Carol Gatzert discussed her personal experiences picking up, fostering, and re-homing stray dogs. She recommended using billboards to spread information about animals and spay/neuter, as well as not leaving pets outside in the heat.
- l. Mia Bryan gave her time to John Bachman.
- m. Eramde Morgan gave her time to John Bachman.
- n. John Bachman discussed that dogs seem to be the problem in the community and ACS should reevaluate capacity/space protocols. He recommended ACS posting an up-to-date Organizational Chart that lists vacancies as well. He mentioned he would like to see a plan that includes adoption events in the Strategic Plan. He stated that the euthanasia process should be recorded. He recommended utilizing standing committees.
- o. Angelia Tate discussed her personal experiences with finding dogs and now puppies being dumped in her area. She stated that overbreeding is getting worse and that you

can't spay/neuter your way out of this problem. She said the production of pets needs to be stopped. She recommended using voucher options for the public to get spay/neuter services.

- p. Vicki Steerman stated her disappointment with the focus being on dangerous dogs and investigations in the Strategic Plan rather than spay/neuter. She recommended giving owners spay/neuter vouchers when their pet is returned to them. She stated this is a community problem and everyone should encourage their neighbors to do the right thing for their pets. She discussed personal efforts to help find spay/neuter resources for residents.

VIII. Determination of Next Meeting Date

The next ACS Advisory Board meeting, a Work Session, was scheduled for September 20, 2023.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

APPROVED

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