



**ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PRAIRIE PAWS ADOPTION CENTER - 2222 W. WARRIOR TRAIL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021 AT 6:30 PM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Turner at 6:36 p.m. with a quorum present.

1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Karen Tesmer moved to approve the minutes; Madeline Monroe seconded. **Motion passed.**

AGENDA ITEMS

2. PPAC Improvement Projects

Lily Yap reported our cat condo ‘Penthouses’ are now complete. Donors did an amazing job using bright colors in their designs that uplift our lobby area.

Lily also reported the most recent update with our quarantine drainage project. We are going to be able to use donated funds to complete the drainage project this Fiscal Year along with a light pole installation in the back parking lot area.

3. Operations Updates

Edward Cruz discussed recent operation updates. Our Shelter staff is looking to improve our process for handling behavioral cases and ways to increase day to day enrichment activities. Our Medical team has updated the process for handling after hour emergency cases. We now have the capacity to save more lives with access to a 24-hour animal emergency hospital. Edward also reported the field team received a new Animal Control truck and are expecting two more.

Edward mentioned challenges we are facing with recruitment. We are looking to hire individuals that will carry out the City’s tradition of creating Raving Fans therefore we are being selective with our hiring interviews.

Lily Yap mentioned going forward Shelter, Medical and Field Supervisors will now rotate into our Quarterly meetings to better showcase our shelter’s leaders.

4. Program Updates

Destinee Wright reported recent shelter events. This year we held our first ever ‘Halloween Pawty’. The overall turnout exceeded our expectations with over 200 guests. Upcoming events include free cat and dog vaccine clinics at Grand Prairie Libraries the first week of December and our official Condo and Memorial Fund Reveal on December 5, 2021. Destinee also

mentioned the shelter is in the process of building a Crate Rental Program. The program will support citizens looking for training resources to avoid having to surrender their pet due to behavioral issues.

This year we will not be hosting Santa Paws delivery that would involve adopted pets being delivered to their new homes the day of Christmas Eve or Christmas. Currently the shelter is focused on having more onsite events for the upcoming months. Initiatives such as stocking stuffing for the adoptable animals and Chipmas will be announced via our social media platforms.

Also noted by Lily, our social media reach has increased by over 50% in the past year.

5. Unlawful Restraint Law & New Ordinance Updates

Edward Cruz discussed the Safe Outdoors Act that becomes effective in the state of Texas on January 18, 2022. The Act bans the use of heavy chains, weights or improperly fitted collars. It requires animals housed outside to have adequate shelter that keeps them safe from inclement weather and allows them to sit, stand and move around comfortably. The dog must also be able to avoid standing water and exposure to excessive animal waste. Most importantly, it also gives law enforcement the right to seize a dog that is tethered inhumanely and in danger of dying. Previously, the owner had to be given 24 hours' notice to correct the problem. Grand Prairie was fortunate to have laws already established to support this new law.

Edward also mentioned the Senate Bill 48, the Animal Possession Ban which gives judges the discretion to prevent persons from possessing an animal if they are sentenced to community supervision for attacking an assistance animal, committing cruelty against non-livestock animals, dogfighting, or cockfighting. This bill also permits judges to require psychological counseling to the offender. This will not only prevent offenders from harming more animals, it will also provide a path to treatment for offenders before they escalate to hurting humans.

Lily Yap discussed updates the prospective Spay Neuter Ordinance. We have passed along our recommendations and similar surrounding cities' ordinances to our City Attorney's office and a draft will be available at the next quarterly meeting.

6. Animal Services Quarterly Report

Lily Yap discussed this quarter's monthly numbers. Even with our waitlist resources intakes have been consistent. We saw a big jump in cat adoption despite having a decrease in cat intakes in August. The resources we have now to focus on young kittens and behavioral cases helps us see results that we haven't previously been able to see.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Citizens may speak during Citizen Comments for up to five minutes on any item not on the agenda by completing and submitting a speaker card.

Lily Yap introduced our newest board member, Marlina Vincent. A long time Grand Prairie resident whose love for animals attracted her to apply to become a member.

Madeline Monroe was interested in our Office Fostering Program. Destinee explained that we are still looking to build that program however we still need a pilot person and location to better establish the program before making it available.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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Certification

In accordance with Chapter 551, Subchapter C of the Government Code, V.T.C.A, the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee agenda was prepared and posted Month XX, 2021.



Lily Yap, Animal Services Division Manager