



## **MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Turner at 6:42 p.m. with a quorum present.

1. Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes

Lisa Turner moved to approve the minutes, Karen Tesmer seconded. **Motion passed.**

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

2. Community Cat Program Guest Speaker - Destiny Haney w/ Best Friends Animal Society

Lily Yap introduced Marla Browne, National Embed Program Manager with Best Friends Animal Society, for a presentation on Community Cat Program best practices and how they have benefited our organization since the expansion of the TNR Program. Verified that it is Marla, not Destiny, presenting. Shared examples of how, by focusing resources on the animals that don't have an automatic outcome for a positive outcome, even difficult cases (such as our 2020 hoarding cats) can be saved as well.

3. Organizational Restructure & Field Services

Lily Yap reported the change of Animal Services from Environmental Services to Police Department. As the animal welfare industry places more and more value on serving both pets and people out in the communities where they are, field services are more important than ever before. This move supports this growth through an ideal value alignment and facilitates more resources and cross-training opportunities.

This change also presented an opportunity to reassess our organizational structure. Animal Services Division now consists of five departments: Medical, Field, Shelter, Programs, and new Operations Support, headed by Dr. Rana, that supports items that 'touch' multiple departments.

Additionally notified of the approved positions for 2 intake specialists, 1 field lead officer and an acting Lead Veterinary Technician. By getting the Animal Services Officers out into the field vs in the shelter as they are currently assigned for a portion of their schedule, we can be of better service to our community than ever before.

4. Animal Services Quarterly Report

Imran Rana provided the Quarterly report, for March, April and June 2021, including 2019-2020 for comparison.

Lily Yap noted on quarterly report that we had a clear jump in "other" animal intake in April. This is attributed to a recent cock-fighting investigation where approximately 300 fowl were confiscated. Reported the vast majority were placed into safe groups with the help of Animal Investigation and Response. This collaboration across multiple departments and organizations resulted in a half a million dollar dent in a large cock-fighting operation.

Explained that intake and outcome numbers within a month generally do not align due to factors such as animals being housed for over a month. Will follow up next meeting with the 'other' animal intake outside of the fowl case.

## **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.*

Jean Melton mentioned the feedback received from customers regarding the lack of phone response from the shelter on Saturdays. Lily Yap advised that citizens that need emergency assistance in the field are directed to call the police department non-emergency number outside of dispatch hours and citizens interested in adopting are welcome to come visit in person or email their inquiries. Dispatch/phone hours are posted as Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Jean Melton also inquired information on our back to full post-Covid operations. Lily Yap advised that a meeting is being held with the entire staff to finalize the timeline for continuing to pull back on limited operations programming.

Jean Melton asked who is over the TNR program and investigations for certain citizens. The person of contact for the TNR will be Dr. Rana Imran.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

The Grand Prairie City Hall is accessible to people with disabilities. If you need assistance in participating in this meeting due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call 972 237 8018 or email [lyap@gptx.org](mailto:lyap@gptx.org) at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled meeting to request an accommodation.

### *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 May 10, 2021.*



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*Lily Yap, Animal Services Division Manager*