



**ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PRAIRIE PAWS ADOPTION CENTER - 2222 W. WARRIOR TRAIL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024 AT 6:30 PM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA ITEMS

The full agenda has been posted on the city's website, www.gptx.org, for those who may want to view this agenda in more detail. Citizens may speak for five minutes on any item on the agenda by completing and submitting a speaker card.

1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Don Smarto brought attention to a typo under Item #3, moving to approve the minutes with this modification, Karen Tesmer seconded. Motion passed.

2. Animal Services Quarterly Report

Lily Yap explains the GPAS quarterly report. In our last quarter there is generally a gradual increase in intakes and animals leaving to rescue. Karson Goldbach, the new Placement Coordinator, was noted as the drive for the increase of animals going to rescue and foster. Lily explains how the live release rate correlates to the live outcomes and intakes. Also noted the increase in return to owner rates in January, correlating with the end of the microchip ordinance grace period in December. Subsequent discussion included advertisement, enforcement, and events for microchipping. Lily shares the upcoming events, noting the pending recruitment of a new Event Intern position.

3. Field Service Request Communications

Lily shares that GPAS field related service calls are now answered by Communications from the Public Safety Building. This is in order to help decrease wait times for incoming calls. Lily shares to the committee the possibility of an additional dispatcher in order to help aid our one current call taker. Lily explains shelter specific calls, related to topics such as waitlist and adoption, will be funneled to onsite departments.

4. Operations Update – Comprehensive Training Program, Trap Servicing & Kitten Season

Lily shares updates on the launch of the new comprehensive field training team. Lily informs that with the two new officers that have been hired on that have completed the training have been able to provide more informed and prepared with a comprehensive view of every aspect of animal services before becoming an Animal Services Officer. Lily informs that servicing of traps has been re-launched as of January, as planned, due to popular demand, emphasizing that it is still a great opportunity to discuss long-term solutions with residents that may not want to continue the perpetual cycle of trapping and instead remove the source of the issue. Lily shares some challenges on the upcoming kitten season, noting a 10% increase in kitten intakes

compared to the previous fiscal year. Fortunately, both Animal Services and Cat Crew have experience a surge in citizen participation in TNR resulting in a 25% increase in TNR's so far this fiscal year compared to last. Still preparing for the worst with kitten season due to a mild winter and encourages promotion of kitten fostering. Crystal shares that the average kitten foster is about a month.

5. Veterinary Shortage

Lily shares challenges specific to GPAS saying that our vet position has been open for over 3 years. Lily shares demand for veterinary professionals is high nation wide. Marlena shares that vet schools are extremely hard to get into so there are not that many individuals in the workforce. Lily shares that Crystal Allen has built our Medical Team acting as interim lead and has developed strong relationships with contracted vets in the absence of a full-time vet. Lily shares that she is on the board of an animal welfare organization that recently released position statements on the development of telemedicine and a Veterinary Professional Associate certification as ways to support the estimated 75 million pets expected to be without access to care by 2030.

Discussed recruitment efforts thus far. Marlena recommends proactively recruiting with vet schools.

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.

There were no citizen comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Don Somarto the motion was seconded by Marlean Vincent. With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

The meeting room 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 972-237-8578 or email 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 February 12, 2024.



Lily Yap, Animal Services Division Manager