

Cleveland Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2017

Opening:

The meeting of the Cleveland Animal Shelter Advisory Board was called to order at 1:04 PM on April 5, 2017 in the City Council Room of the Municipal Building by Dr. Sally Poston.

Present:

Dr. Sally Poston; Rachel Veazey; Dr. James Lane; Stephen Kinder; Tom Casada

Absent:

A. Approval of Minutes

Tom Casada motioned to approve the minutes as written. Dr. James Lane seconded. All approved.

B. Director's Report

- 1) Director Gene Smith reported that a couple of Officers have been replaced. The new ones are Kellie Daugherty and Tyler Winter. They have completed their twelve-week training so Animal Control is back to full staff.
- 2) Dr. Everett came from the Department of Health and did the inspection that is done every two years and it went well with no problems.
- 3) In the packet of handouts, there are monthly reports. There is also a revised contract Animal Control went to several months back, in addition to an addendum for when some Veterinarians were charging over the \$90.00 that the City is paying. The City Attorney John Kimball fixed those up for Animal Control. Dr. Sally Poston asked if that was ok for the Veterinarian to do that as long as the City is not paying for it, that the client is paying the difference. Director Smith said that was correct. If the Vet charges over that part, the client is supposed to pick it up. There is also a survey that Beverly did on animal adoption fees charged by other Animal Controls in the area.
- 4) The new Board member replacements are present, Rachel Veazey and Tom Casada. Tom has taken the place of George Poe.

C. Old Business

- 1) City Clerk Shawn McKay presented an update on the Hugh Gladden Estate fund. Mr. Gladden left a sum \$39,057 to the City to benefit the Animal Shelter and it was to be restricted to spay and neuter. The money was received in May 2014 and expending of the fund began in Fiscal Year 2015 which started July 1 of that year. Fiscal Year 2015, \$12,160 was spent. Fiscal Year 2016, \$21,749 was spent. In the current Fiscal Year, Fiscal Year 2017, the remainder of \$5,148 was spent. That money was used to make up the difference between the \$50.00 adoption fee and the \$90.00 that service providers were charging for spay and neuter services, so to make up the \$40.00 difference. His account is that was a little over 950-plus animals were benefitted by that request from Mr. Gladden. The other reason for him addressing the Board is to discuss the possibility of what to do in the future. The City currently has about \$17,000 budgeted for next year to cover the spay or neuter services. He doesn't know if that is going to cover all of it or not. Dr. Poston asked if the City had put parameters on whether that was only for spay or neuter or if it could be used for injured animals. Shawn said the money from Mr. Gladden's estate was spent strictly for spay and neuter. Dr. Poston said she understood that, but she was asking about the \$17,000 he said the City had in their budget for this coming year. Shawn said that money was intended to use for spay and neuter. Dr. Poston asked if it was specifically spay and neuter and Shawn said it was. He said he is not sure that will cover the expense, so he doesn't know if it is a discussion for the present meeting, but it is just something to think about going forward we are striving to be no kill or limited kill facility and he doesn't want to move backwards. However, we may need to look at either

adoption fees or something of that nature. How we are doing that to see if there is a way to generate more funds or even looking at Gene's budget to try to pick up some efficiencies there on where money is being spent because there is X amount of dollars that is going to be spent. He thinks he spoke with Dr. Poston about what a good standard of care would be for injured and sick animals that we may find abandoned. Is there a level of care the Vets say if it is a certain thing, it is probably never going to recover, so you should go ahead and euthanize? So, he thinks as things like that are looked at, maybe it can be determined that money is being spent in the most efficient way possible. Because if we are more efficient on how money is spent on sick and injured animals, that may can be used for spay and neuter. Dr. Poston said that she totally agreed. The most obvious would be when a dog comes in with a broken back you can often tell on physical exam, the x-rays are not needed and that would save the City money. Some things are very black and white and some things are not so black and white. Shawn asked if anyone had any questions about the restricted account and how the request was used. Dr. Poston made clear that the restricted account was the one that was inherited. Shawn said yes it was. Dr. Poston asked how was \$17,000 came up with for spays and neuters going forward. Shawn said he would have to defer to Gene because he was the one that came up with that amount. He says he thought we just looked when you are dealing with all the departments within the City, they have to operate in the black. Dr. Poston said it was just a question because the only thing from the trust fund that we had that was a full year was \$21,000. Shawn said that the first year, 2015, was a full year and we spent \$12,000. He can't say why there was such a spike. Gene said the \$17,000 was just a ballpark of what was thought might be spent. Shawn said some of the changes with the County setting up their own program kind of skews everything, but we are a few years past that now. Rachel Veazey asked if he knew how much was spent last year on medical. Shawn said that in Fiscal Year 2015, the City spent \$16,024. For 2016, \$15,000 was budgeted but that was probably amended and he did not have the amended budget with him. Also, the budget request for the current budget year is \$15,000. Dr. Poston asked if she needed to approve this. Gene said no, it was just to get them aware of what is being done now.

Dr. Poston said the Veterinarians as an association have always been very supportive of the Shelter and the City and trying to promote a lot of adoptions. She said in her time in this City, they have done everything from free adoptions to \$125 adoption fee. She thinks that somewhere in the middle of that seems to be the best balance of them getting adopted and them having good homes. She said the association has come up with \$90 as what they would want in regards to reimbursement. She thought there should be more guidelines on how the money that is for medical is spent and bring that down. Gene asked if that was something the Vets could work on to say what the minimum care to keep the animal comfortable without going overboard. Dr. Lane said that all the Vets want to keep animals comfortable and they want to give an owner an opportunity to find their animal, but not be heroic at all. He also said that they did not need to fix a broken bone, that it was not an emergency. They could put a \$30 cast or splint on the leg and keep it available until someone could either adopt it or did something different.

Gene said that what his recommendation might be if the money was not there would be to go back to a \$25 deposit on adoptions. City Manager Joe Fivas said that what we were here for was to ask for their suggestions on how to fill the gap and see if there were any creative ways or have a conversation and come back at the next meeting and sit down after the Vet Association was talked with and see what some options are. He would like for it to be a partnership.

Samantha Serum addressed the Board regarding treatment of sick and injured animals. She said she sees reason as to why there should be parameters, but the cost of treatment varied widely by the Vet being used. She suggested a set fee per treatment across the board. Also, speaking about the survey of the cost of adoptions, some of the places include things that are not included with Cleveland Animal Control. She suggested perhaps charging a licensing fee for animals additional funding.

D. New Business

- 1) Gene Smith asked that perhaps the Board brainstorm a better option for the deceased animals that Animal Control is picking up. He said he had some ideas, but he would like to get their input as well. He said that his personnel decreased and there are times that he has done it himself or cleaned the kennel while an officer went because of being short of staff. He said maybe talk to the Veterinarian Board and then come back with any recommendations they may have. Rachel Veazey asked what the procedure was now. Gene said they are taken to the landfill and Dr. Poston added that Animal Control also goes around and picks the deceased up from the Vet offices as well.

- 2) County resident Cheryl Wilson addressed the Board wondering if there is a fee that is paid to go to the landfill. Gene said that there was. Ms. Wilson wondered if it would be cheaper to cremate them. Shawn McKay said that is being looked at. Betti Gravelle asked where the money comes from for the landfill. Director Smith said the City paid it and it was around a \$1000.
- 3) Stephen Kinder made a motion to reappoint Dr. Sally Poston to the Board. Dr. James Lane seconded the motion. All approved. Dr. James Lane made a motion to reappoint Stephen Kinder to the Board. Tom Casada seconded the motion. All approved.
- 4) Tom Casada made a motion to approve the new adoption contract. Stephen Kinder seconded the motion. All approved.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 PM by Dr. Sally Poston. The next general meeting will be at 1:00 PM on June 28, 2017 in the City Council Room of the Municipal Building.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer Rogers