

Lane County Animal Services Advisory

Adopted Minutes

March 9, 2015

Members Present: Tamara Banavige, David Calderwood, Dale Hyland, Scott Bartlett, Dr. Bill Young

Members Absent: Dr. DuWayne Penfold

Guests Present: Cary Lieberman, Jaclyn Rudebeck

Staff Present: Mike Russell, Dave Stockdale

Public Present (signed in): Janis Howard, Misha English

Chair Banavige called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Janis Howard stated she is a dog walker volunteer at 1st Avenue Shelter. She stated that the current facility is not adequate for dog's needs. She said a group of volunteers submitted a letter to the City of Eugene Budget Committee to consider funding a replacement of the current facility. She related several operational limitations of the current facility that are not ideal for caring for dogs in the kennel. These included the configuration of the current kennels, hallways and lobby areas and that there is no warm quiet area for potential adopters to meet potential pets.

Mr. Calderwood said he does not believe there is anyone on the committee that does not agree with what was said.

Misha English passed out copies of the letter submitted to the Eugene City Budget Committee. She explained that they are starting a grass roots movement to address a new public shelter facility. She spoke about problems of over-capacity that continue at the shelter.

She spoke about a proposal to merge the Greenhill Shelter with a new public shelter on Greenhill's private land and that she does not support the proposal. She said she was concerned what tax payers would get for their money in such an arrangement. She did not know how publicly funded improvements on private land would work. She expressed concern for the public agencies' bargaining position within a contract once publicly funded improvements were made on private land. She said the public should remain owners of any public shelter facility.

Changes to the Agenda

Chair Banavige suggested moving the discussion on a new public shelter up to the next agenda item.

Discussion on a new public shelter and advocating for one

Mr. Bartlett spoke about the San Francisco model where the Humane Society facility and public shelter are very close together and seem to work well. He said that the two organizations worked together well in that if the public shelter had an adoptable animal that they could not get adopted, the Humane Society shelter would take it on.

Mr. Calderwood mentioned a model that was presented to the committee at a previous meeting where facilities were separate, but connected with a hallway.

Mr. Bartlett talked about the advantages of a more centrally located facility and at one time the County looked at a location on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd but it came down to how to pay for it. He said the question is, is there a role for a public shelter; for the public to have ownership and control of a public shelter, even if it is run by a contractor?

Dr. Young said he thinks universal licensing should come first. He said it is frustrating to see all the money going to infrastructure and management while it is not going to the animals.

The group continued to discuss various options for a new public facility:

- Capacity needs, room for growth
- Co-located with Greenhill versus not; clearly delineated line between public and private facilities.
- Greenhill 2011 study (\$6 - \$8 million) for Greenhill facility – LCAS 2003 Study and 2008 Study (\$6 million - \$10 million) for LCAS facility
- A lot of variables and unknowns at this point
- Long-term view – Greenhill may not do this forever
- Best case scenario – how far out for a new facility to be constructed? – Two years
- As far as the options for improvements to the Greenhill shelter, location is not so much the concern as is the ability to sustainably provide the level of care they want to provide.
- Need for centralized licensing model that would support more license sales

Mr. Bartlett asked about the relative demand that the City of Eugene puts on the shelter facility. Mr. Lieberman said that City of Eugene animals represent about 62% of the animals that go through the shelter. Mr. Bartlett asked what percentage of the funding to operate the shelter comes from Eugene. Mr. Lieberman said that the funding was roughly based on the number of animals, so, accordingly, about 62% of the shelter's funding comes from Eugene. Mr. Bartlett asked if Mr. Lieberman envisions enhancing the current contracts to include other things like education and advertising. Mr. Lieberman said, as far as the contract goes, they are focused on animal care and getting the needed resources for that. He said the contracts are up for renewal in June 2015.

Adoption of Minutes

Mr. Calderwood wanted to address the pyometra (uterus infection) discussion and that he did say that one option for treatment of this disease is to do nothing. He said he wanted that reflected in the minutes under the discussion regarding question #8. He asked Dr. Young on how he treats it. Dr. Young said that it depends on the case. He said if it open, then there is more time allowed for treatment. He said he personally tries to remove it as quickly as possible. Mr. Bartlett said each case needs to be considered on its facts.

Mr. Bartlett stated that the committee used to have the Euthanasia Review Sub-committee. Mr. Calderwood said he does not think having a review committee would address No Kill concerns. Mr. Bartlett asked about Greenhill's internal review process. Ms. Rudebeck said that staff vets routinely consult with external vets on medical cases, especially cases where euthanasia might be an option. She said Dr. Amy Valentine, who serves on the Greenhill Board, reviews every euthanasia case file. Ms. Rudebeck also mentioned that Dr. Schroeder uses an online resource called Veterinary Information Network (VIN) that utilizes a discussion forum format to discuss cases and get feedback from other professionals.

Mr. Bartlett moved to adopt the minutes as revised. Mr. Calderwood seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

1st Avenue Shelter's Activities

Mr. Lieberman reviewed the February 2015 Shelter Report. He said the numbers are similar to last year with slightly more cats. He said they are seeing a lot more return to owners with over a 70 return to owner rate. He said Craig's List has been a great tool to help get animals back to owners.

The group continued to discuss the current public shelter facility and its shortcomings.

Lane County Activities

Mr. Stockdale reviewed the updated Officer Activities report. He said the report shows a little more activity than last year.

Mr. Calderwood asked about the dog bite case in Veneta where the animal was placed under a 10-day quarantine period. He asked if that was adequate. Dr. Young responded, for domestic animals, 10-days is consistent with current practice.

Mr. Bartlett asked why the Spay/Neuter Vouchers numbers are so low. He said that, by policy, 5% of license revenue is to go to support funding these vouchers for poor or disadvantaged citizens. He said it seems like the County is not meeting that. Mr. Stockdale said that Lane County is honoring vouchers as they are applied for and that the small numbers indicate that not many are being applied for.

Jan Shelton (from the audience) said that her experience with volunteering at Willamette Animal Guild is that they use vouchers all the time and she sees many go unused as people who apply for them do not follow through with redeeming them.

Mr. Bartlett asked that Mr. Stockdale review voucher use and ensure that they are being as widely available as possible. Janetta Overholser (from the audience) said that she has made earnest efforts to advertise voucher availability and it results in few applications.

The group discussed rabies reporting in the County and how different jurisdictions may or may not report vaccinations they perform according to their own policies. It was discussed how some citizens who live in the County will go to a vet office that does not report vaccinations because they prefer not to be reported to "the government".

It was requested that a discussion on the Spay/Neuter Voucher program including distribution procedures and a financial report at next month's meeting.

SB 6 Update - Implementation of Registration of Lane County Rescues and Foster Organizations

Mr. Stockdale said that the only county in Oregon that has codified this is Washington County. Mr. Stockdale passed out a summary sheet with Lane County's proposed code language. Mr. Stockdale suggested the committee take this information and come ready to discuss at next month's meeting. The group discussed the law and the relative need for it. Mr. Calderwood asked for a copy of Washington County's language and the language of the law that passed be distributed to the committee prior to next month's meeting.

Co-Chair Selection

Committee members discussed willing co-chairs. Mr. Bartlett moved to nominate Dale Hyland and Tamara Banavige as Co-Chairs of the committee. Dr. Young seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 13.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 4:55 p.m.

ADOPTED 4/13/15

Minutes Recorder

Mike Russell, Parks Manager